FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 DECEMBER 1983

Lebanon

Military Situation — The Lebanese Army tightened its control over the Sabra and Shatila camps and a new cease-fire took effect on 26 December, the Army Command announced in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio following violent clashes between the Army and gunmen over Christmas. The fighting started when armed men from the southern suburb attacked Army units which had just taken over positions in the Shatila area vacated by the French contingent of the Multinational Force, according to a statement broadcast by the radio. Several cease-fire agreements collapsed as the fighting raged and "dozens" of people were killed or injured in shelling which hit residential areas, the radio said. Security sources cited by the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio estimated that over 50 people were killed and around 100 were wounded. Three Italian soldiers were injured in the crossfire, ANSA noted. In the Al-Kharrub district south of the capital Druze and Christian militiamen exchanged artillery fire, according to Beirut radio.

Meanwhile, three IDF soldiers were wounded in an ambush near Lake Al-Qir'awn at the southern end of the Al-Biqa' valley, Jerusalem television announced on 26 December. Earlier, Jerusalem radio reported that the IDF moved its command offices in Sidon to Kafr Falus in the outskirts. The building used hitherto will be returned to the Lebanese Government.

Diplomacy — Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam telephoned President Amin al-Jumayyil on 26 December to discuss the security situation and a new security plan aimed at consolidating the cease-fire, Beirut radio reported. The plan, formulated by Saudi envoy Rafiq al-Hariri, calls for disengagement of the warring factions, neutralization of the airport, and withdrawal of Phalangist militia forces from the south and other areas, according to Radio Monte Carlo and QNA.

Citing sources in Amman, Radio Monte Carlo also reported that the Saudi, Syrian, and Lebanese foreign ministers will meet in Riyadh 7 January to discuss reconvening of the National Dialogue Conference. However, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt said in Damascus that he is doubtful whether the renewal of the dialogue will be worthwhile, according to the radio.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held talks with YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in San'a' on 26 December after disembarking with his fighters at the north Yemeni port of Al-Hudaydah, San'a' Voice of Palestine radio reported. Meanwhile, members of the PLO's Military Council arrived in the YAR to meet under 'Arafat's chairmanship, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio noted. 'Arafat is expected to make a short Arab tour before proceeding to Tunis, according to PLO sources cited by the Amman paper *SAWT ASH-SHA'B*. Earlier, in the wake of 'Arafat's meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, the Fatah Central Committee sent him an urgent request to go to Tunis for an extraordinary Fatah Central Committee meeting, KUNA noted.

'Arafat expressed satisfaction with the results of his meeting with Mubarak and described his visit to Cairo as a "new transformation" in the march of the Palestinian issue, according to MENA. He told the Saudi paper *AL-YAWM* that the Palestinians need a government-in-exile to further their cause and said the issue will be discussed at the next PNC meeting, scheduled for February 1984, Cairo radio reported.

PLO deputy military commander Khalil Al-Wazir, in a statement broadcast by Algiers Voice of Palestine radio after his arrival in Algiers, confirmed that a PNC meeting is planned for early next year after meetings of the Fatah Central Committee, the PLO Executive Committee, and the PLO Central Council. As for 'Arafat's meeting with Mubarak, Al-Wazir said the Syrian regime's "crime" against the PLO "drove Brother Abu Ammar to this step," and he expressed support for the Fatah Central Committee statement on the meeting. The Fatah statement, as reported by KUNA, said the Central Committee was "surprised" by 'Arafat's meeting with Mubarak "without consulting the PLO legitimate institutions," adding that it will take measures to guarantee adherence to PNC resolutions and hold accountable anyone who deviates from them. Although these remarks were not included in the "text" of the statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, both versions stressed that only "legitimate" PLO institutions have the right to judge and decide on 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and criticized those who were quick to condemn 'Arafat while remaining silent over the "treason" of the Fatah dissidents and their supporters. Commentaries by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio expressed support for 'Arafat's initiative to rectify the "historical error" of isolating Egypt and bitterly criticized PFLP Secretary General George Habash's "prearranged" reaction to the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting and his silence over Syrian actions against the Palestinians.

In Damascus, Habash told a press conference that 'Arafat has become the "Palestinian As-Sadat" and reaffirmed his demand for 'Arafat's removal from the PLO leadership, Damascus radio reported. PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum, PLO spokesman 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, DFLP deputy leader Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, and other Palestinian dissident and pro-Syrian leaders likewise condemned 'Arafat's visit in interviews on Damascus television. A statement issued by 31 of the 48 PNC members in Jordan also condemned 'Arafat's meeting with Mubarak, according to *SAWT ASH-SHA'B*.

Among other Arab reaction to the 'Arafat-Mubarak talks, JANA reported that Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi condemned 'Arafat's action while Damascus radio warned 'Arafat in a commentary that his "day of punishment" is not far away. On the other hand, an "authoritative" Saudi source cited by Riyadh television stressed that the PLO has "absolute freedom to undertake its intrinsic decisions." Avoiding direct comment on the visit, the Saudi statement noted that the PLO's role as sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians is in accordance with Arab summit conference and PNC resolutions. Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali said Egypt will hold further contacts with the Palestinians and will encourage them to resume the negotiations with Jordan, MENA reported.

Syria

Al-Asad Interview — Syria wants to settle its problems with the United States and hopes that the latter will again "conduct itself responsibly as a superpower" in order to reduce the likelihood of war and help remove the Israelis from Lebanon, President Hafiz al-Asad affirmed in an interview with the French weekly *LE POINT* read over Damascus television on 24 December. While criticizing France's military involvement in Lebanon alongside the United States, Al-Asad said he is optimistic about the future of Franco-Syrian relations.

As for his personal health, the Syrian leader said he is recuperating from "several days of fatigue" brought on by overwork and hopes to return to regular work soon. Reports that he has established a collective leadership of party and government officials to run the country are "just rumors," he added.

Jackson Visit — Jesse Jackson will arrive in Damascus at the end of this week on an official visit at the invitation of the Syrian Government, QNA reported citing an official Foreign Ministry source. Jackson will meet with Al-Asad and hold talks with Foreign Minister Khaddam on the release of the captured U.S. pilot, QNA added.

Israel

Israel was "angered" by U.S. support for the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was "almost personally offended" by the U.S. position, IDF Radio stated on 25 December. Meanwhile, Shamir told *YEDIO'OT AHARONOT* that the U.S. Administration is wrong to think the meeting will help promote President Reagan's peace plan.

When asked in a recent Vienna television interview whether Israel might launch a preemptive military strike to counter Syria's rearmament program, Shamir said he "cannot say" what Israel will or will not do, but he hoped that "it will not be necessary" to go to war with Syria.

Egypt-Israel

Egypt has complained to Israel over a recent incident in which an Egyptian youth was arrested by the Israeli Authorities in Elat and then committed suicide, MENA reported. Egypt notified the Israelis that their failure to inform the Egyptian Consulate in Elat of the youth's arrest was a breach of the bilateral police agreement. An Israeli police spokesman cited by Jerusalem radio said Egypt's complaints were unfounded.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi-Saudi Talks — Iraqi President Saddam Husayn received Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah in Baghdad on 25 December for talks on Arab affairs and bilateral relations, Baghdad radio reported.

Libya on Jordan-Egypt Agreement — Libya has protested to Jordan over the latter's recent economic agreement with Egypt, Tripoli radio noted. The Libyans view the agreement as a violation of the 1978 Baghdad summit resolutions.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraq launched a missile attack on Masjed Soleyman on 25 December, killing 18 people and injuring 92 others, according to Tehran radio. The attack came after an Iraqi military spokesman warned Iran in a statement broadcast by Baghdad radio that Iraq would strike "selected targets" deep inside Iran in retaliation for the latter's continued shelling of Iraqi border villages.

In another development, an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio claimed that Iranian air defenses shot down an Iranian plane by mistake on 25 December.

Iran

Relations With France — The Foreign Ministry ordered the expulsion of three French diplomats in response for the deportation of three Iranian diplomats and a number of students from France, Tehran radio reported on 25 December. Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, in an interview with the radio, accused the French authorities of "unethical" and "even criminal" behavior toward the Iranian deportees and acknowledged that relations with France have reached "their lowest ebb."

Ba'labakk Raid — The Syrians gave Iranian forces in Ba'labakk "a little" support during the 21 December Israeli air raid in which one Iranian was killed and several others were injured, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated during a 23 December sermon broadcast by Tehran radio.

Afghanistan

A clandestine Afghan resistance radio began broadcasting on short wave bands from a transmitting station in eastern Afghanistan, according to KUNA and Paris radio reports. The new station is expected to broadcast 30 minutes each evening on 2520 Khz, KUNA said.

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'Arafat Arrives in San'a', Makes Statement

NC261424 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] San'a', 26 Dec (MENA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in San'a' at 1200 today leading a group of his Palestinian fighters estimated at 1,459 fighters, 800 children, and 100 female fighters. Some 300 of these fighters will leave San'a' tomorrow en route for Baghdad. 'Arafat and his fighters were received by Local Administration Minister Muhammad al-Ja'ifi on behalf of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

In an exclusive statement to a MENA correspondent in San'a', 'Arafat expressed his satisfaction with the results of his meeting with President Husni Mubarak in Cairo on Thursday. He described his visit to Cairo as a new transformation in the march of the Palestinian issue. He said his visit was positive to a great extent.

Asked about the criticism raised over his meeting with Mubarak, the Palestinian leader said: I do not listen to what the slaves of Rome say; I only listen to what the honest people say.

At a news conference held earlier aboard the Greek ship that was carrying him and his forces, 'Arafat said a plot is being hatched in which certain elements are participating with Israel to partition the area on the assumption that the area is within Israel's influence. 'Arafat said that for the first time he is saying that certain Arab parties are participating in this plot with the aim of partitioning the area into sectarian zones. He said: We refuse to return to the era of kings and sects.

In reply to a question about the stage lollowing the withdrawal from Tripoli, 'Arafat said there is a new trend of Palestinian action and that its details will be announced as soon as possible. He said in Tripoli we did not fight for Palestine only, but for the whole Arab nation.

'Arafat is scheduled to hold a news conference in San'a' tomorrow evening during which he will explain the dimensions of the situation and the new stage of Palestinian action following the exodus from Tripoli.

Meets With YAR President

GF261734 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, arrived this evening in San'a' from Al-Hudaydah.Immediately upon arrival, brother leader Abu 'Ammar went to the presidential office where he met with his brother Yemeni President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Then a round of talks was held between Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Brother leader Abu 'Ammar. Talks were going on when this newscast was being drafted.

Brother Abu 'Ammar and Palestinian fighters arrived at the Al-Kathib this morning.

Abu 'Ammar made a speech upon arrival in which he said: I arrive on YAR soil with my kinfolk and brothers in the land of ancestors and heroic strugglers of our Arab and Islamic nation at a very historical moment with the strugglers who were with me in northern Lebanon, the city of Arab and Muslim Tripoli. I regret to say that they were besieged both from the air and on ground and our camps in the north and the second Lebanese capital were attacked with bombs, artillery, and rockets. Under these circumstances, I will not forget the time when my brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih contacted me in the name of all Yemenis and all their honorable brothers from the Arab nation. These words which I heard from him were a balm for all Lebanese and Palestinian strugglers. We were defending not only the Palestinian revolution or Lebanon — it is true that we were defending our independent decisionmaking against those who wanted to trample upon it and who wanted to use it as a trump card on the table of international bargains — we were also defending the entire Arab nation because there is a plot aimed at Palestine and Lebanon and our Arab nation. It is the plot to create division. In order not to enter the era of kings, we were defending this plot of land. I call on the Arab nation to be very vigilant and alert.

In his speech, brother leader Abu 'Ammar lauded the Yemeni Government and people. He affirmed that the Palestinian people and the Arab nation will not forget the YAR's genuine Arab stand which is honorable and courageous and expresses the spirit of this nation for victory, God willing.

'Arafat Call for Government in Exile Reported

NC250805 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat has called for the establishment of a Palestinian government-in-exile. He also said that he will launch a diplomatic campaign to attain Palestinian goals, including the convocation of a meeting of the Palestinian National Council [PNC], which is considered as a parliament-in-exile, in Algiers in February.

In an interview with the Saudi newspaper *AL-YAWM*, 'Arafat said: I am convinced now more than at any time in the past of the need for a government-in-exile to push forward the Palestinian political and military struggle. He added that this question will be discussed at the next PNC meeting.

Fatah Official Denies Secret 'Arafat Saudi Visit

GF250430 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Rafiq an-Natshah, Fatah Central Committee member and its representative to the Kingdom, has denied reports some news agencies attributed to Radio Monte Carlo yesterday that Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, visited the Saudi capital secretly and met with Saudi officials, including His Majesty King Fahd.

An-Natshah said these reports are baseless and contradict reality because Yasir 'Arafat had not arrived in the port of Jidda when this statement was issued yesterday evening, and that Yasir 'Arafat does not need to visit the Kingdom secretly because Saudi-Palestinian relations are so clear that they do not warrant secret visits.

An-Natsah added: Saudi Arabia's aid and support — king, government and people — to the Palestinian cause is very clear to all and all our people appreciate this.

'Arafat Interviewed on PLO Affairs, Jordan

PM231613 London AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Dec 83 pp 16-17

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Mahmud Haydar in Tripoli 18 December]

[Text] Question: The United States considers your withdrawal from Tripoli a part of its program for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. What is your opinion?

Answer: That is undoubtedly the case. Who is saying anything else? You should address this question to our Syrian brothers.

Question: After Tripoli there will be a completely new phase calling for specific steps. Do you intend to put the Palestinian house in order before embarking on any particular political move?

Answer: All these matters will be submitted to the Palestinian leadership. It has been over 3 months since that leadership last met.

Question: Where? In Tunis?

Answer: Perhaps, but it is known that immediately after my departure I will visit Algeria at the invitation of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. I will also visit Amman and a number of other Arab countries at the invitation of their leaders. I have also received many invitations from the leaders of the nonaligned states.

Question: While you were under siege in Tripoli many developments occurred in the Palestinian arena, including an alliance embodying the PFLP, the DFLP, the Palestine Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Communist Party. What do you think of this alliance?

Answer: I support every Palestinian effort and dialogue and every stand that stems from Palestinian soil. This is an expression of Palestinian democracy which we treasure and which we intend to maintain and develop. We wiii never abandon that course.

Question: To what extent can that Palestinian grouping contribute to the drafting of a PLO political and organizational program?

Answer: Any program would require the approval of everyone in the Palestinian arena. We cannot possibly overlook or set aside the political program approved by the PNC at its latest session in Algiers.

Question: But on the organizational level it appears that the phase after Tripoli will be decisive for you especially since there are reports that preparations are under way for the declaration of a new PLO.

Answer: Let anyone who can do it proceed to do so. It is ridiculous that there are people who regard the PLO as an oil company which they can give a different name whenever they like. The PLO is an expression of the Palestinian will, a hope of 150 million Arabs, a beacon for all free and honest men in the world. It is not a joint-stock company. Some people think that the money with which they can buy shares in an Italian or an American company can also buy the PLO.

Question: Do you mean, Brother Abu 'Ammar, that if such a thing happened you would pay no attention to it?

Answer: Of course, otherwise we would have paid some attention to previous similar attempts. We know the fate of the previous attempts. The Palestinian rejection front, for example, at least had some fixed political lines, but these people now have none. They are nothing more than intelligence agents.

Question: There is backstage talk about a possibility of reconciliation between you and Syria. How true are these reports?

Answer: Since the very beginning of the offensive mounted against us I have declared more than once that I extend my hand to Syria so that we may confront the Israeli enemy, but there has been no response from Syria. I have always appealed to Syria for the formation of a united front against U.S. Zionist aggression and plots, but regrettably there has been no response from President Hafiz al-Asad to my appeals. Nonetheless, I still extend my hand because I know Syria historically and geographically and I know how important it is for Palestine.

Question: Do you not consider the arrival in Damascus of a delegation representing your ally, the Islamic Unification Movement, to be a positive indicator of an improvement in your relations with Syria?

Answer: I have nothing to do with what is happening between the brothers in the Islamic Unification Movement and Syria, but I am very pleased with this development which I consider to be a real step toward national reconciliation between the Tripoli forces and Syria.

Question: Some PLO leaders have made statements confirming that the PLO intends to make a major political move at the international level. Could you tell us about that?

Answer: I beleive that the new thing in this connection wil be the understanding that will prevail between Jordan and the PLO. King Husayn's recent statements indicate that Jordan intends to open a new positive page in its relations with the PLO, without any preconditions.

Question: That is as far as unconditional meetings are concerned, but what about the dialogue and course of action, especially in relation to the confederation plan?

Answer: The latest PNC resolution is that the dialogue with Jordan should be resumed and that confederal relations should be established between Jordan and Palestine. During his visit to France, King Husayn spoke very clearly about this matter to the European Parliament.

Question: What will the confederation formula be?

Answer: It would be unreasonable to discuss this in the press. As in the past, there are details to be studied by the Palestinian and Jordanian sides.

Question: If there is going to be a confederation between Jordan and Palestine, it would mean a confederation between Jordan and the West Bank and Gaza, which means that the plan will remain a theoretical concept.

Answer: No, it is not a theoretical plan. It is a practical plan based on firm foundations, a realistic policy, and a high degree of democracy.

Question: Will there be a qualitative change in the conflict with Israel?

Answer: We hope so.

Question: Do you believe that there is a possibility of an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?

Answer: Absolutely not. On the contrary, we and Jordan will launch a fierce struggle for confederation and against Israel and its schemes, and we will do it on new grounds.

Question: Do you beleive that Jordan is qualified to wage such a struggle?

Answer: All indications are that it is.

Question: Even on the military level?

Answer: On all levels. The PLO proved that it is highly capable of resisting the Zionist enemy when it fought the longest Arab-Israeli war, as well as four heroic battles, in modern Arab history. Despite what has happened, we are ready to wage a war of attrition against the Zionist entity.

Question: Do you mean that there will be a revival of the war of attrition against Israel?

Answer: We are engaged in a war of attrition against Zionist aggression right now. That war will never end.

Question: What about Egypt's role in the phase you are talking about?

Answer: I believe that the Egyptian position now, particularly after the statements made and stands taken by President Husni Mubarak, is positive and very important. I wish my Arab brothers would read the reports written by the Israeli mission in Egypt about the change in the Egyptian attitude, especially after the strategic military agreement concluded between Israel and the United States. Add to this the numerous declarations that have been made regarding the question of normalization and, most significantly, the restoration of Egypt's place in the Middle East's strategic balance.

Question: Will you invite Egypt back to the Arab ranks, or to the leadership of the Arab ranks, in the coming phase?

Answer: Since As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, Egypt, the biggest military power with the biggest manpower resources in the region, has without doubt been kept out of the Arab ranks, and that has jeopardized the course of the conflict and disrupted the balance in the region. That is why Egypt must return to its natural place and project its role and depth at the Arab, African, and Islamic levels.

Question: The barometer of events in the region shows vacillation between war and settlement. Bearing in mind what is happening in Lebanon, how do you assess the situation?

Answer: I do not see a war. I see a plot, a U.S.-Israeli plot approved by certain Arab sides. The aim of the plot is to partition Lebanon just as Palestine was partitioned. In Lebanon, partition will cover sects, territory, and people. The ultimate objectives is balkanization of the region. Kissinger talked about this in his writings. He spoke of balkanizing the region to facilitate control of it. I cautioned against this after the Beirut battle and before the Tripoli battle. I warn against it now. I have also spoken of a volcano in the region. It began in Beirut and will not stop before it reaches the walls of Jerusalem.

Question: Do you see the current confrontation between the U.S. Navy and the Syrian forces in Lebanon as an indication that war is on the way?

Answer: Regrettable, it is the big stick.

Question: Against whom?

Answer: Against the entire region. We must not forget that Rumsfeld left Damascus with good results followed by the reopening of the airport, the cease-fire, followed by the resumption of the dialogue in Geneva, our departure from Tripoli, and Al-Jumayyil's visit to Libya, not to mention Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's ultimatum to me threatening to storm Tripoli if I did not leave it.

Question: From what you say it seems that the indications are that there will be a settlement, not war.

Answer: At any rate, a war in the region would be in my interest. I believe that this nation can only be healed by a real war against the Zionist enemy and against the U.S. plot.

Question: That is a wish and a dream, is it not?

Answer: No, it is a realistic analysis.

Question: So there will be war?

Answer: We must take all possibilities into consideration, but we do not form our views on the basis of the ebb and flow in the media. We observe political trends and we look at the red and green lines and see how all the colors got mixed up and how alliances, maps, and agreements changed.

Reaction to 'Arafat Egyptian Visit Reported

Fatah CC Statement

JN241644 Baghdad Voice of PLO In Arabic 1542 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee has issued a statement commenting on Brother Abu 'Ammar's visit to Egypt and the reactions to this visit. The following is the text of the statement:

The Fatah Central Committee, while affirming that our abidance by our people's inalienable national rights, including their right to return to their homeland, determine their own destiny, and establish their independent national state on their national soil, is a firm principled commitment and a rallying point for the unified Fatah movement —leadership, and rank and file — would like to emphasize that it is also our absolute right to oppose and resist all treaties, agreements, and initiatives that encroach on our national rights, including the Camp David accords and the Reagan plan.

We would also like to emphasize that any accountability or questioning must take place within the framework of the legitimate institutions, whose resolutions we have always upheld and honored. This was the course we followed in dealing with the mutiny within the Fatah movement and the PLO, before the mutiny committed national treason by striking at our people and butchering our masses in the Palestinian camps.

While dealing with Brother Abu 'Ammar's visit to Cairo, we would like to remind those who are not vying with each other in issuing statements, of the following:

First, this visit must be judged by our people and their national legitimate institutions. These institutions alone have the right to issue judgements and take actions.

Second, where were the authors of these statements and where were their stands of condemnation, vis-a-vis the deviationists from the PLO, and their people's willpower and unity when the agent dissidents and their supporters struck at Palestinian camps and killed our people's masses in them? Why did we not hear a single word from the authors of these statements condemning those crimes, which reached the level of national treason, or demanding the expulsion of any of the dissidents from the PLO?

Third, where were these people and their stands vis-a-vis Al-Qadhdhafi's reception of Amin al-Jumayyil, the man behind the Lebanese-Israeli treaty? Why did they not utter a single word against this visit or against 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's visit with Amin al-Jumayyil? Why did they not condemn the move taken by al-Qadhdhafi, who has ceaselessly leveled accusations against us and lectured us on patriotism?

Out of our concern for national unity, Palestinian legitimacy, and the PLO, we call upon everyone to resort to reason and wisdom in handling this subject. We call upon them all to resort to the legitimate institutions, which alone can make any decision. We urge the masses of our Palestinian people everywhere, especially our heroic masses in the occupied territory, to resort to their conscience and to abide by their national unity, which is the main guarantee for victory in all our national battles. The stand of these masses and their institutions and national figures has been the strong shield that has protected the Palestinian revolution and the PLO by the independent Palestinian national decision-making. All the attempts of the traitors to split the PLO and strike at Palestinian national unity were wrecked on the rock of these masses' steadfastness.

Let our national unity be strengthened, and let our masses stand solidly behind the PLO. It is with this alone that we will be able to overcome all difficulties and achieve victory in the battle of national liberation and independence.Revolution unto victory!

Four Groups Issue Statement

JN260651 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the PFLP, the Palestinian Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Communist Party issued a joint statement in which they emphasized that 'Arafat's visit to Cairo is a step toward dealing with the U.S. solutions represented by the Camp David accords and the Reagan plan.

The joint statement asserts that the seriousness of the step is evident by the fact that it is directly aimed at dividing and splitting the Palestinian ranks and the PLO and at paving the way for a Palestinian side that is armed by the legitimacy of its position in the PLO to join the bandwagon of capitulation.

The statement adds: The current calls for a government-in-exile are only an assertion of this rightist trend, which unilaterally claims to be representing our Palestinian people, and a continuation of its undeterred march toward deviation and capitulation. In view of this impending danger, we have no other choice but to unify all national Palestinian ranks and efforts in all inside and outside positions and in all organizations and factions, particularly the Fatah movement, in order to prevent the capitulatory trend from usurping the right to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people.

The statement calls for an immediate session of the PLO Central Council to unify all efforts toward burying the current plot in its cradle and preserving the PLO's unity, since 'Arafat has lost his right and qualification to lead the PLO and the national Palestinian struggle.

Baghdad PLO Radio Support

JN241848 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1605 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, nobody is still unaware of the fact,except perhaps the blind or those who pretend to be blind, that we are passing through a new earnest phase; the post-Beirut phase. Since Beirut and our expulsion from the whole of Lebanon in two stages, first at the hands of the Zionist enemy and then at the hands of the Syrian regime; and also since the 17 May agreement and all of the Lebanese developments, the Arab region has entered the second Camp David phase, which is just as serious as the first phase, if not more serious. This is because instead of directly confronting the second Camp David phase and allying itself with the Palestinian revolution to check the Zionist invasion and prevent Lebanon from falling into its cluches, the Syrian regime has struck at the Palestinian revolution and entered into negotiations with the Zionist enemy in order to partition Lebanon and arrange the affairs of the region in such a way that does not only establish the second Camp David phase, but also firmly consolidates the first Camp David phase and thus creates a new situation in which only the Zionist entity is the real victor.

In view of this situation, which has been accepted by the Arab regimes, and, in fact, encouraged by some of them directly or indirectly, the Palestinian revolution and its legitimate leadership, represented by Brother Abu 'Ammar, the leader and representative of the Palestinian people's conscience, aspirations, and objectives, had to take the initiative, after he had succeeded, thanks to his great leadership and the overwhelming support of the masses of our heroic people, in foiling the plan to liquidate the Palestinian revolution, which the second Camp David plot has sought to achieve through the duo of the Zionist entity and the Syrian regime.

Since our leadership has always felt that the isolation and Arab boycott of Egypt essentially serves the interests of Zionism due to the absence of any other Arab power that can topple Camp David, and that the isolation of Egypt has only led to the success of the second Camp David plan, it decided to take the initiative to immediately rectify this historical error, which has deprived the Arab arena of the biggest Arab power and led to disunity and lack of decision concerning the Palestinian issue. Our legitimate leadership has always called for the need to contain the first Camp David plan on its own ground by defeating its main objective of isolating Egypt from the rest of the Arab world. This demand has now become more urgent after the first Camp David has led to the second Camp David and after matters have deteriorated to such an extent that they could, sooner or later, lead to a third Camp David plan in which the biggest loser would be our people and cause.

In order to put an end to this bad Arab situation and out of our leadership's desire to get to the root of the disease; namely, the isolation of the greatest Arab polarization center — or what Brother Abu 'Ammar always referred to as the Arab whale —from the arena of the Arab decisionmaking, the slogan of this new phase —the post-Beirut phase —should be to work toward the return of Arab Egypt to its natural place in the arena of Arab decisionmaking.

Our leadership has always rejected and our people, who are a source of strength for our leadership, have also rejected all forms of Camp David and all liquidation plans which prevent our people from determining their destiny on their land, returning to their homeland, and establishing their independent state on their national soil. In this new phase, the second Camp David phase, our leadership will deal with reality so Arab Egypt can assume its historical responsibility toward the Palestine question; its responsibility to place all its weight behind our Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Baghdad PLO Radio Open Message to Habash

JN241836 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1631 GMT 24 Dec 83

["Open letter" to PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash]

[Text] Revolutionary greetings to you, Comrade George Habash. Far away from the picturesque words and big slogans, we would like to begin our message with a group of innocent and legitimate questions whose answers are very important with regard to assessing the wrong ideas that often reach the extent of political blindness and eventually lead to national treason.

Our first question is: Can your quick reaction be one of the characteristics of the leaders who are hoping to play a historical role in favor of their people's cause, and can such a quick reaction be proper behavior in dealing with a major political event that requires a deep and investigating look, based on the analytical scientific instruments that you always affirm are in your possession on every occasion? If the answer is no, which is certainly noton a scientific and objective basis, then the quick reaction has other meanings that indicate specific objectives for those who express quick reactions, whether purposely or not. We do not want to interpret these meanings and objectives, but we affirm that your violent reaction to brother leader Abu 'Ammar's visit to Cairo has been, as it seemedto us, a prearranged one, but expressed in the form of a quick reaction. Is there a specific meaning for this quick reaction? Yes, but we will not disclose it now.

Our second question is: How can a particular political move be assessed on the basis of being a violation of national unanimity? What is the national unanimity, basically, and who decides it? You know that our Palestinian masses have a decisive role in this respect. Let us give the following example: Since the Syrian and Libyan regimes, in cooperation with the group of traitors and agents, have begun their conspiracy to liquidate Palestinian legitimacy and independent decisionmaking, the Palestinian masses immediately rejected the conspiracy and supported the independent decisionmaking and the Palestinian legitimacy with its bright symbol, brother leader Abu 'Ammar. These masses have paid a dear price for this decisive stand.Several martyrs fell by the bullets of the Syrian agents and intelligence men in the heroic camp of Al-Yarmuk in Damascus. Similarly, such was the situation of our masses inside the occupied homeland. Thus, our masses expressed a national unanimity against the conspiracy. Where were you when this unanimity was made? Your silence at the massacres that were perpetrated against our people in Damascus and northern Lebanon, particularly in the Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi camps, and those which were caused by the barbaric Syrian and Libyan shelling has contravened this national unanimity. Is it not so?

Moreover, we wonder on what basis have you considered Brother Abu 'Ammar's visit to Cairo a violation of the national unanimity and the PNC decisions? We recall here that there was a certain decision that had been adopted by the PNC in its last session in Algiers, and we believe that it is very necessary to review it now concerning this point in particular. We wonder once again on what basis have you considered Brother Abu 'Ammar's visit to Cairo a violation of the national unanimity and the PNC decision? Well, do you not consider the shedding of our people's blood by the hands of the traitors and agents a violation of national unanimity and a great national treason at which you remained silent, and found in it an opportunity to escalate your political manuevers for achieving those old objectives that are being presented within a group of opportunist slogans? It must be noted that what has been taking place against the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian masses in northern Lebanon by the hands of the Syrian and Libyan forces does not tolerate multiplicity of viewpoints and the hesitant and fluctuating stands that you have been adopting.

We may say that all this could be put to discussion, if we believed the claims of political georgraphy and its pressures. But we will not believe this matter during a phase that is considered one of the most serious phases through which the Palestine question is passing —where it is facing a very savage assault aimed at liquidating it. We will not believe this matter at a phase during which stands must be expressed very clearly. While believing or not believing, we used to see the PFLP in its long history of struggle and we also used to see our comrades in the PFLP fighting in Tripoli on the side of Palestinian legitimacy, despite the orders of their command. We used to bite on our wound and wait for Dr George Habash's awakening. Comrade Habash woke up, but he demanded Abu 'Ammar's departure from Tripoli. Why? So that the legitimate institutions could resume its work, as he put it. Thus, it looks as if the road to Tripoli is like the road to Tel Aviv where nobody who wants thelegitimate institutions to continue their work can cross. We came to know later that the Syrian regime's statements for entering Tripoli had been cancelled —there can be no power or strength except for except God.

Dr Habash continued to adopt the same old stand after 3 months of pain and of ugly, fierce battles that tired to physically liquidate the Palestinian legitimacy in a heinous, hysterical manner. When the battles ended and the PLO left Tripoli under local, Arab, and international military and political pressures and under the Syrian-Zionist military siege — which he failed to denounce — Dr Habash rose to condemn Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar's visit to Cairo. Why? Because Cairo has the Camp David accords.

Here is our second question. What is the difference between Camp David and the Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. agreement? This is the conspiratorial agreement that was behind the Syrian-Libyan plot against the PLO that aimed at expelling it from Lebanon after failing to liquidate it. If there is no difference between the two — and this is the true state of affairs — why is no stand adopted toward the Syrian regime, which is coordinating with the Lebanese authority at Geneva and at other conferences even though this authority signed the abovementioned agreement? This does not mean that we are looking for justifications. These are questions that must be asked. Why is Damascus not criticized for its collusion and treason against the Palestine question, the first pan-Arab question? Does Damascus represent a revolutionary sacredness that renders any criticism of its political moves a blasphemy? There is no doubt that there is another interpretation for this matter, one that is unrelated to revolutionary sacredness.

We will again accept the allegations and pressures of political geography, but why should we accept this allegation while we have another question about the same point in mind. Do personal interests play a role in adopting such stands, especially since these stands come within the framework of seizing oppotunities at the expense of the supreme national interests? It seems that these personal interests play a realistic role, as do several other factors, including a misconception of the role of leadership and the petit bourgeois mentality that always seeks to hold the stick in the middle in order to preserve its interests and presence in this or that position.

The most important questions remain to be asked. Who gave George Habash the right to accuse Brother Abu 'Ammar of treason? Abu 'Ammar is a leader with a long history of struggle that is well-known to George Habash more than to anyone else. On what grounds can a historic leader such as Brother Abu 'Ammar be accused of treason by the leader of one Palestinian faction, even though he [Habash — FBIS] says on every occasion that he abides by the legitimate frameworks? Why does he then cede to the legitimate frameworks in this affair and many other affairs, and why does he alone judge and accuse the leader of the Palestinian revolution? How can George Habash exercise this role after remaining silent during the 3 months the Syrian and Libyan forces perpetrated ugly massacres against our people and revolution, massacres that were particularly aimed against the Palestinian legitimacy and its various frameworks?

Is it possible for you, Comrade Habash, to completely cancel the people and their role in order to decide and judge things according to the personal desires of this or that faction? Here comes the more difficult question. What is treason, how can it exist, and who is the real traitor? Is he the one who participates in killing his people and colludes with their killers, or is he the one who is besieged for 3 months while waging battles in defense of the independent Palestinian decision, the Palestinian legitimacy, and all of the accomplishments the revolution has achieved through the sacrifices of its sons and masses? Who is tE real traitor? Is he the one who remains silent toward a regime that wants to kill his people and revolution, or the one who knocks on all doors and storms all strongholds for the sake of his people and their supreme national interests? We do not want to accuse anyone; we are only asking questions.

The following question remains: If you are concerned for the PLO and its unity, Comrade George Habash, why did you approve of Khalid al-Fahum's call for a PLO Executive Committee meeting at this stage in Damascus even though you know that the Damascus road is closed for Abu 'Ammar? He was even sent out of Damascus according to a Syrian decision, and was expelled from Leabnon according to a Syrian-U.S.-Israeli decision that enjoyed Arab silence. Why did you approve of this call while the trumpets of treason and agentry in Damascus blare out that Abu 'Ammar left Tripoli just like the defeated who lost a large military battle in Tripoli? Why did you approve of this invitation for a meeting that would directly lead to a PLO split because of the Damascus road that is closed to Palestinian legitimacy? Comrade Habash, once again we say that agreeing to hold this meeting in Damascus was a grave dissident action and an attempt to achieve the aims of the Zionist-Libyan plot, a plot that failed to achieve its aims by using heavy artillery shells and rocket launchers.

Comrade Dr George Habash, we still have many questions. We will ask them in another message. We sincerely hope that you will respond positively to our questions and adopt a positive stand that can restore George Habash, the independent Palestinian, to us so that we can continue the march together until victory.

Baghdad PLO Radio on Egypt's Return to Arab Fold

JN231803 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1650 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] During these bad Arab times, in which the Palestinian issue has become a heavy burden for Arab regimes that are only concerned with what is taking place inside their domain; and at a time when no value or respect is given to a unified pan-Arab decision based on the essence of a comprehensive Arab interest and the interest of the Palestinian issue, which is the principal pan-Arab issue, the PLO under its legitimate leadership, which is derived from the will of the broad Palestinian masses throughout the diaspora, had to exercise its independent Palestinian national decisionmaking —a decisionmaking that is principally based on the essence of pan-Arab interest, in order to restore self-esteem to this interest and to unite its ranks toward strongly contributing to restore credibility to the effective and united pan-Arab decision under the most difficult circumstances and in the face of the biggest challenges.

Every one feels and realizes, particularly our Palestinian people, that removing Egypt from the Arab arena, isolating it from the overall Arab situation, and paralyzing its principal role in contributing toward adopting pan-Arab decisions was a U.S.-Zionist objective from the start. After Egypt's exit, the other Arab regimes raced to dismember what was left of the Arab membrane. It became evident to the PLO and its legitimate leadership that the principal target of all these operations were the Palestinian people and their cause. This is confirmed by the fact that successive assaults pursued the PLO and the Palestinian people, and not only by the Zionist enemy, which is heavily backed by the United States, but also by the Arab regimes themselves, which carried the slogan of expelling Egypt from the Arab arena under the pretext that these regimes are more capable of confronting U.S.-Zionist designs and of rescuing the Palestinian issue from the conspiracies being plotted against it.

The PLO under its legitimate leadership believes that the current situation, and all of its tragedies and deterioration, cannot tolerate stands of silence and folded arms so that the slaughter or expulsion of the Palestinian people is completed and the Arab region is brought to the brink of partition and increasing fragmentation. The PLO also realizes that struggling to bring Egypt back into the Arab fold is a principal struggle task if this deterioration is to be stopped and if the final absence of the Palestinian issue and liquidation of the Palestinian people is to be averted.

Therefore, since this goal is a principal objective in serving the principal issue, the Palestinian issue, then the PLO under its legitimate leadership, and from the premise of its independent national decisionmaking, is capable and prepared to enter this struggle under the most difficult circumstances to place all of Egypt's weight behind the pan-Arab decision that has proved to be very feeble in the absence of Arab Egypt.

PLO, USSR Envoys Meet in Tunisia 24 Dec

LD251133 Kuwait KUNA in English 1038 GMT 25 Dec '3

[Text] Tunisia, Dec 25 (KUNA) — The Soviet ambassador to Tunisia met Saturday with the PLO representative here Hakam Bal'awi, it was reported Sunday.

The Palestinian news agency WAFA said that discussions focused on current Arab and Palestinian developments.

The Soviet ambassador renewed his country's support for Palestinians under leadership of their sole legitimate representative, PLO'S leader Yasir 'Arafat.

KUWAIT

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Bombings

LD241755 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1550 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, 24 Dec (KUNA) — The deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and minister of information, Shaykh as-Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, said that the explosion incidents staged in Kuwait on 12 December did not take place in a vacuum but were the result of the provocations created by the Iraqi-Iranian war and the current events in Lebanon. He remarked that the GCC is the framework within which we will discuss all our grievances. Such an incident will naturally be the center of our concern in the next ordinary meeting.

In a statement to the Lebanese *MONDAY MORNING* published in its latest issue, the deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and minister of information stressed that Kuwait has been and will remain a country which will open it arms to anyone who is interested in honorable work. It will not take any unusual measures against residents in the country. He declared that Kuwait had chosen from other political and social systems and their bases: We have all accepted them and we shall defend them together.

Shaykh as-Sabah rejected any interpretation or links of any kind between the Palestinian brothers enjoying our hospitality and that criminal folly. He said the Palestinians have always shown honorable, disciplined conduct in their solidarity with Kuwait's stances and their concern for its security and stability. Shaykh as-Sabah rejected and denounced terrorism and crime committed in the name of struggle as much as he condemned and denounced the policy hostile to Arabs and allied with the Israeli enemy.

Following is the text of the questions and replies:

[MONDAY MORNING] Was the wave of explosions in Kuwait an extension of the war in the Gulf between Iraq and Iran, or was it a reflection of what has taken place, and is still taking place, in Lebanon

[As-Sabah] It is regrettable that concern and imbalance in values and material things are characterstics dominant in our world's political map at present. There is no doubt that the Middle East has almost the largest share of that picture. Therefore, the explosion incidents staged in our country did not take place in a vacuum but were the result of the provocations created by the Iraqi-Iranian war and the current events in Lebanon. It is well known that Kuwait has a role with its brothers in stopping the deterioration in the Lebanese arena. It also makes efforts with its sisterly countries in the GCC to mediate to end the Iraqi-Iranian war. All these have made it a target of attacks by parties which want to upset security and stability in this part of the Arab homeland.

[MONDAY MORNING] Has Kuwait referred the explosion incident to the GCC to discuss suitable steps to safeguard the internal security of Gulf Countries!

[As-Sabah] That crime was aimed at Kuwait and the state institutions have taken upon themselves to face it and treat it with competence, order, and care. There is no doubt that the position of our brothers in the GCC and Arab countries and our friends in the world on our side has made Kuwait much bigger than our enemies thought. The GCC is the framework within which we shall discuss our grievances, and this or other incidents will naturally be the center of our attention at the next ordinary meeting.

[MONDAY MORNING] Following the incidents, a ban was imposed on the travel by foreigners to and from Kuwait. Are there any other measures to be taken against these foreign nationals working in Kuwait to prevent a repetition of such incidents?

[As-Sabah] The ban on travel by foreign nationals was imposed for a few hours only following last Monday's explosive operations during which the security men managed to determine the identity of the suspected criminals behind the incidents and arrest the culprits who committed these criminal actions. As you can see, God willing, Kuwait will always be, as it has been, a country that opens its arms to anyone wishing to embark on honorable business. We will not take any extraordinary measures against residents and travelers so long as they abide by the local laws and regulations. Our guests should bear some of our inconveniences for the sake of the security and peace we all seek.

[MONDAY MORNING] Do you agree with the contention that Kuwait became a target because it has become the Switzerland of the Gulf, just as Lebanon became a target after it became the Switzerland of the region, or has Kuwait become a target because of the large number of Palestinians who reside and work in it?

[As-Sabah] Kuwait is the Kuwait of the Gulf and the Arabs. Like Switzerland and all countries of the world, we have our own history and our own subjective circumstances. There is no similarity or identity except [words indistinct], for we have chosen and accepted our political and social system and its foundation and we will defend them united. Our foreign policy and our relations with the brothers and friends are a true reflection of our internal work and we cannot deviate from them because in them lies the components of our existence. I cannot be convinced by any interpretation whatsoever that links between the residence of the Palestinian brothers as our guests and that criminal floutation. The Palestinians have constantly shown honorable discipline in their dealings with us and have associated themselves with our political feelings and with Kuwait's attitudes and its anxiousness to preserve its security and stability.

[MONDAY MORNING] Do you expect attacks on the American and French embassies and institutions in the region to escalate if the West continues its policy of hostility to the Arabs and alliance with Israel?

[As-Sabah] I do not believe in reading tea leaves or looking into crystal balls with regard to future operations directed against the interests of other countries. But we reject and condemn terrorism and acts of crime that are committed in the name of struggle as much as we denounce and condemn the policies that are hostile to the Arabs and are allied with the Israeli enemy. The roads to struggle and its strongholds are clear and well known, and political and military struggle with all the noble meanings it carries has its concepts and well-known methods throughout history. They are, undoubtedly, different from the criminal acts which led to the loss by Kuwait of most dear members of its diplomatic youth and the other victims of the recent explosives.

[MONDAY MORNING] Have the investigations succeeded in finding anything about those behind the explosive operations?

[As-Sabah] We declare to our people all the details obtained by the security men, who have proved a high standard of efficiency with the speed in which they determined the criminals and arrested some of them and their tools of crime. These number 12, of whom 7 are Iraqis — one of whom 1 was killed — and 3 Lebanese, who all belong to the Islamic Ad-Dawa' Party. They all have now been referred to the state security counrt so that it will unmask all the details and punish the evildoers in accordance with laws and justice.

[MONDAY MORNING] Do you think these incidents will speed up the approval of a joint security pact among the GCC countries or does Kuwait continue to oppose the inclusion of an article which permits the forces of all Gulf countries to chase wanted people inside the territories of other Gulf countries?

[As-Sabah] The coordination and unification of laws among the GCC member states are not governed by such incidents but proceed in accordance with plans and studies that are discussed in the light of the sublime interest of these countries of which the security pact is only one aspect. Like other brothers, Kuwait has its own views in regard to the draft agreement. This should strengthen the security agreement and make it more compatible with our positions as partners and officials responsible for security and stability in our Arab Gulf.

Minister of State: 19 Held for Bombing

LD270953 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0929 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 27 Dec (KUNA) — The minister of state for the affairs of the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers, 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, today announced that the number of those apprehended in the explosion incidents which took place in Kuwait on 12 december has risen to 19. He added in a statement to journalists that the files on the accused are ready to be sent to the state security attorney. He said that the security forces managed to arrest the fleeing 12th defendant, who was announced after the perpetrators of the incidents were discovered.

Papers Comment on 'Arafat Visit to Cairo

LD231426 Kuwait KUNA in English 1039 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 23 (KUNA) — Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat's surprise visit to Egypt Thursday and his meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak was viewed by two local Kuwaiti dailies Friday as a dramatic move and a quantitative leap in Arab politics.

AL-WATAN newspaper feared that the visit, which sent shock waves in the Arab world particularly in 'Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), would further deepen the split in the Palestinian ranks. Recalling the already flaming rift within the PLO's mainstream commando Fatah, the paper noted that by unilaterally taking such an initiative, 'Arafat has antagonized his own supporters.

Most of the Arab states and the PLO boycotted Egypt in 1979 for making peace with Israel, and 'Arafat's move Thursday was in violtion of the Organization's decisions endorsed unanimously by the PLO's highest decision-making bodies.

AL-WATAN said 'Arafat was the first Arab leader to break ranks with the Arab consensus, and decided to "enter the zone of vacuum" since Egypt, in its present conditions, cannot take part in efforts to restore the Palestinian rights.

'Arafat has opted to join the American-leaning Arab Camp, a move which will help resucitate the stalled Camp David treaty between Egypt and Israel and also revive U.S.-sponsored talks on autonomy for the Palestinian people in Israeli-occupied arab territories.

Stressing that the American pledges have lost their credibility, the paper questioned the hopes of 'Arafat and voiced skepticism about the possible gains the Palestinian people would net from 'Arafat's visit to Cairo.

Meanwhile, *Al-QABAS* daily noted that even the PLO leader has no right to act in violation of the decisions endorsed by the organization's democratic institutions. But the paper indicated in an editorial that "we must not be carried away by anger and agitation until 'Arafat is given the chance to explain his move" which triggered a chain reaction of condemnations by Palestinian groups of various political complexions.

Al-QABAS, however, regretted that 'Arafat's visit to Cairo came without psychological or press preparations and as such sparked an upheaval in the Palestinian ranks. The furious reactions however, should not be interpreted as directed against Egypt or its people, the paper said recalling recent calls that the Arab boycott of Egypt should continue.

24 Dec Editorials

LD241148 Kuwait KUNA in English 1011 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 24, (KUNA) — The recent controversial meeting in Cairo between PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak continues to be the dominating subject of editorials in Kuwaiti newspapers Saturday with some branding 'Arafat's visit a violation of Arab summit resolutions and others defending it as being in the Arab interest. *AL-ANBA' newspaper indicated that while it is not a crime for* an Arab to visit Cairo, 'Arafat's call at Mubarak was "a mistake" since it stood contrary to resolutions passed by the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization and Al-Fatah movement Central Committee. It added that "every condemnation of the visit is right and a must."

The newspaper pointed out with criticism that "Although Arab states must exert efforts to bring Egypt back to Arab ranks after a joint Israeli-American conspiracy to distance it as an active force in the Arab struggle," 'Arafat's visit was not the proper way to achieving that objective. The newspaper said returning Cairo to Arab fold and dissociate it from the American camp should not happen at the expense of pushing more Arab parties into that camp.

The daily said "The visit supports accusations which described 'Arafat as a dictator and an emperor-like in dealing with Palestinian establishments."

AL-ANBA' praised the recent communique of Al-Fatah Central Committee which called on 'Arafat to stand before it for questioning regarding his visit to Egypt. It also called on the PLO Executive Committee and the PNC to convene and question 'Arafat and take necessary measures regarding 'Arafat's violation of the PNC resolutions.

AL-WATAN newspaper said earlier 'Arafat used to label the Palestine Liberation Organization the "difficult equation in the Middle East region". Now, the newspaper noted, he is trying to solve the equation in the interest of the U.S. President Ronald Reagan Middle East peace initiative which aims to prevent any Palestinian representation and founding a "new As-Sadat" at the expense of the Palestinian cause.

The newspaper stressed that the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting aimed at "eliminating and cancelling a whole political era during which all patriotic and democratic Palestinian and Arab forces stood against the Camp David peace accords". *AL-WATAN* pointed out that the PLO fighters departure from Beirut last year was only one result of those accords.

The paper recalled the 1974 rift within the PLO ranks caused by the 10-point program of the Palestinian National Council and called for exerting efforts to contain the consequences of the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting on the Palestinian scene before events get out of hand.

AS-SIYASAH daily wrote in favour of the visit and bitterly criticized those who oppsed it on the grounds that it violated the Arab boycott of Egypt. In a front page editorial headlined "Yasir 'Arafat...Well Done", the newspaper editor in chief, Ahmad Jarallah said the 1979 Baghdad summit adopted resolutions on boycotting Egypt, the U.S. and Israel "but only implemented the ones pertaining to Cairo in the name of Arab principles." Have we ever kept intact any of our principles, wondered the newspaper, stressing as a fact that the high Arab principles are all "extensively violated."

The paper pointed out that the PLO chairman visited an Arab state which other Arab countries wish to return to and met an Arab head of state not Shamir or Begin. The newspaper said while Arabs have been busy killing each other, the Israeli diplomacy has succeeded in dragging a superpower such as the U.S. behind it and have lined its interest with that of the U.S. to the point of having America fight the world for the sake of Israel.

The daily said the visit is the right path toward achieving an Arab return to Egypt which they have been seeking, after realizing this country's importance.

AL-QABAS newspaper described the meeting as "the first page in a new chapter of Palestinian history" aimed at solving the Palestinian problem through negotiation and dialogue rather than through armed struggle led by Al-Fatah and the PLO for the past 19 years. It noted that the PLO chairman chose Egypt, the center of the Arab world with weight on Arab, Islamic and international levels, after losing his bet on Arab confrontation states.

The newspaper said that although 'Arafat banks on support from the Gulf states and a majority of north African Arab countries while taking this initiative, he will be faced with Soviet and Syrian "difficulties". 'Arafat's relations with Syria have reached freezing point, the paper pointed out, while with the Soviets, it added, strength with 'Arafat and the PLO lies in its arms supplies to the organization. His relations and that of the PLO depends on intensity of their military aid. *AL-QABAS* stated that stopping Soviet arms supplies to 'Arafat will not weaken him especially as he has decided to lay down his rifle and embark on a negotiated settlement.

The paper speculated that 'Arafat's next move would be announcing a Cairo-based Palestinian government in exile. Such a government would have to make some compromises including recognizing Israel so that a Middle East negotiated settlement becomes possible. The U.S. would thereby recognize the government as a legitimate representative of the Palestinians.

AL-QABUS warned of the new path 'Arafat has chosen. It pointed out that negotiation means compromise and past Arab experience shows that Arabs are always the markers of such compromises.

"The U.S. deceived the Arab continuously for over three decades and will not be harmed by doing so again with our without a Palestinian government in exile," the newspaper cautioned.

English language *KUWAIT TIMES* said "'Arafat in one stunning flash, has cut across a whole jungle of conspiracies, confusion and frustration."

"Where were those who now accuse him on shortcomings on principles of revolution when the Israelis wer on the attack," asked the paper, adding that some of 'Arafat's critics were close to the scene, watching in silence and impotence. "They had better shut up now, for shame if nothing else."

The newspaper said 'Arafat's Cairo visit might be "mystifying" for some people but its significance is already visible in Israel. *KUWAIT TIMES said 'Arafat astonished the world and "he is* going to go on doing it," and "he is surely on the path to Palestine as he probably never was before," because a Palestinian state is inevitable.

OMAN

Foreign Minister Returns From Saudi Arabia

GF241720 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned home from Riyadh this evening after a short visit, during which he delivered a written message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id to his brother His Majesty Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, king of fraternal Saudi Arabia, dealing with the situation and developments in the region and the turning points and historical lessons currently witnessed by the Arab march. The message comes within the framework of the continuous consultation and contacts between the two grand monarchs for the benefit of the two fraternal countries and their common interests in the various local, Arab, and international levels.

The minister of state for foreign affairs made a statement to the radio correspondent. He said that the messages exchanged between His Majesty Sultan Qabus and his brothers their majesties, their highnesses, and their excellencies the kings and presidents of the Arab countries deal with an exchange of views on the current Arab situation, whether in the Gulf region or in the entire Arab arena, especially since the coming months will witness leadership conferences such as the Islamic conference scheduled to be held in Morocco next month and the Arab summit conference which is scheduled to be held in Riyadh.

Answering a question on the recent meeting between the Egyptian president and the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, his excellency said that it is natural for the Sultanate to welcome such a meeting.

His excellency expressed the hope that this meeting will continue to strengthen Arab relations and formulate new principles of Arab solidarity to support the Palestinian issue. He added that the Sultanate of Oman has called for eliminating Arab differences among the Arab countries and affirmed that the Arab Republic of Egypt is a basic pillar in the Arab structure. He said that this concept has been confirmed by the visit of Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, to Cairo.

Yusuf al-'Alawi was received by Sayf ibn Hamad al-Batashi, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, and 'Abd al-Hafiz Musalam al-Qalam, assistant director of the protocol department at the ministry.

SAUDI ARABIA

'Source' Comments on 'Arafat-Mubarak Meeting

GF241834 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] An authoritative media source has commented on enquiries made by some of the Arab and international media on the position of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia toward the visit by Yasir 'Arafat to Cairo. The source said: Everyone knows that the position of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia toward the Palestinian issue always emanates from the will of the Palestinian people and conforms with the stances adopted by their leadership represented by the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in accordance with the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences which support the resolutions of the PNC. The PLO has the absolute freedom to undertake its intrinsic decisions in accordance with what it views as achieving the recovery of its rights, the establishment of an independent state on its usurped land, and the recovery of the right of its people for self-determination.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will spare no effort in continuously supporting the Palestinian issue on all levels until the desired victory is attained, God willing.

King Fahd Receives Omani Minister of State

LD241432 Riyadh SPA in English 1248 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 24, SPA — HM King Fahd received here today Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf al-Alawi who conveyed to him a message from Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id. The royal audience was attended by Foreign Undersecretary for Political Arrairs 'Abd ar-Rahman Mansuri.

Al-Alawi arrived here earlier today and was greeted at the airport by Mansuri.

YAR

Palestinian Military Council Members Arrive

GF270444 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] The brother members of the Palestinian Military Council arrived today in Al-Hudaydah led by Brigadier General Abu al-Mu'tasim, head of the operations room of the Palestine revolution forces, in order to attend meetings of the Palestinian Military Council which will begin at a later time under Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces.

Mubarak Meets With Political Group 27 Dec

NC270948 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0835 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak held a meeting this morning at Al-'Urubah Palace with the Political Group to appraise the current conditions in the Middle East. The various reactions to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and his discussions with President Mubarak will be studied. During the meeting, a study will also be made of the outcome of the discussions Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, recently had with U.S. President Reagan, and the letter President Reagan sent President Mubarak.

The meeting was also attended by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din; People's Assembly Speaker Dr Kamil Laylah; Consultative Council Chairman Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim; Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production. Also attending were Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; Interior Minister Hasan Abu Basha; and Dr Usamah al-Baz, Presidential Office director for foreign affairs and Foreign Ministry first under secretary.

Continuing Reaction to Mubarak-'Arafat Talks

Ghali: New 'Arafat Strategy

NC231850 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, will meet on Saturday with the U.S., British, and French ambassadors to explain the dimensions of the talks that President Husni Mubarak had with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Dr Ghali told our correspondent that 'Arafat's visit to Cairo is considered a positive step on the road to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. He said Yasir 'Arafat will chart a new strategy for establishing peace in the area, one based on dialogue. He added that during 'Arafat's talks in Cairo it was agreed to continue the consultations between the Egyptian and Palestinian sides in order to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Commenting on the Israeli stand on 'Arafat's visit to Cairo, Ghali said Egypt, since the peace initiative, has decided not to take the rejectionist stand into consideration. He said Egypt is working to bring about a just solution to the Palestinian issue in keeping with its commitment.

Interviewed on 'Arafat, Israel

NC232043 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] London, 23 Dec (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that it is clear that Egypt's relations with Israel are passing through a crisis. He said: Iam one of those who say a spade is a spade. He pointed out thatthe crisis was created by Israel and because of its actions, which run counter to the spirit of the peace treaty and philosophy on which the agreement was based; that is, abandoning war as a means to establish relations among the countries of the area and working to find peaceful solutions through dialogue, cooperation, and seeking a comprehensive solution based on solving all aspects of the issue.

In a statement to the London-based Arab magazine *AT-TADAMUN*, Ghali said Israel has offended the peace process and Egyptian- Israeli relations through its invasion of Lebanon and actions in the West Bank and Gaza sector.

In his statement in *AT-TADAMUN*'s Saturday issue, Dr Ghali stressed the need to continue contacts and negotiations with the Israeli Government, opposition, opinion-forming leaders, and media to project Egypt's real position and the obstacles placed in the way of peace by the Israeli Government's policies.

Ghali stressed tHat it is possible to achieve peace in the area. He said we will reach peace although this requires a long struggle and much time. We opted for military confrontation for 30 years, so shouldn't we give the diplomatic confrontation 4 or 7 years? He added that Egypt will eventually overcome the obstacles facing the process for a comprehensive peace. He said that ultimately there is no option for the Arabs and Israel other than that of a comprehensive, permanent, and just peace based on fulfilling the rights and security of all parties.

Asked about the strategic cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel, Ghali said he cannot comment in principle on this agreement, because the impression of what was announced in Washington on the agreement cast doubt in the Egyptian and Arab public on the U.S. ability to continue its role as a basic instrument in the peace efforts or as a full partner in these efforts.

Asked about the future of Palestinian action, Dr Ghali emphasized that the PLO did not end, because it is an embodiment of the hopes and aspirations of an entire people. As long as the Palestinian people exist, the PLO will continue to exist. He said names and forms may change, but this is not important. What is important is the Palestinian people and their rights, and action and struggle for them. He pointed out that military action is not the only road of struggle. He said the Palestinian leaders in the PLO or outside must realize the lessons of the past; that is, Israel fears a diplomatic confrontation more than a military confrontation.

Discussing Egypt's relations with the PLO, Ghali said the Palestinian struggle's effectiveness depends on the continuation of the PLO's independence and the respect for its institutions and legitimacy. He added that Egypt does not interfere in the PLO's domestic affairs, but supports the legitimacy which Yasir 'Arafat represents and the representative status he has acquired through elections and struggle, and through the popularity he enjoys among the Palestinians of the occupied Palestinian territory.

Ghali asserted that as a symbol of the Palestinian struggle, Yasir 'Arafat can put the wheels into motion by agreeing with King Husayn of Jordan on a formula permitting the beginning of the implementation of the Reagan initiative with its positive and negative aspects despite the obstacles which Israel seeks to lay in the path of this and despite its attempts to destroy and cancel it.

Briefs Western Ambassadors

NC241356 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today held a number of meetings with the ambassadors of Britain, the United States, Italy, and France to explain the dimensions of the talks that President Husni Mubarak had with PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The meetings were also geared to explaining Egypt's position regarding efforts to find a just solution to the Palestinian issue.

The U.S. ambassador emphasized his government's interest in the meeting that took place between President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat within the framework of Egypt's effective and positive efforts for a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East area.

Furthermore, the British ambassador announced his government's conviction that Mr Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo is regarded as a positive contribution to the efforts that are exerted for peace in the Middle East.

Dr Butrus Ghali also discussed matters connected with the Multinational Force in Lebanon with the Italian ambassador to Egypt. The ambassador voiced his appreciation for the cooperation between Egypt and Italy to transport the wounded Palestinians from Tripoli for treatment and medical attention in Egyptian hospitals.

On Visit, Middle East Talks

NC251559 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 25 Dec (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has emphasized that Egypt will seek to exploit the visit Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, made to Egypt to the benefit of the Palestinian cause. He said the next step will take the form of further contacts aimed at encouraging the Palestinian side to resume with the Jordanian side the negotiations that had come to a halt last April.

Dr Ghali today made a statement at a meeting of the Committee on Arab and Foreign Affairs of the Consultative Council. In his statement, Dr Ghali stressed Egypt's interest in the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza sector. He explained that Egypt does not want a new Palestinian Command created.

Dr Butrus Ghali noted that PLO Executive Committee chairman Yasir 'Arafat's recent visit to Egypt has enjoyed the support of the United States and European states. He said Egyptian diplomacy will seek to encourage the Palestinian (?and Jordanian) sides to participate in the peace negotiations. He added that the U.S. election year should not be an obstacle to this move.

Dr Ghali mentioned that Egypt will seek to benefit from France's chairmanship of the European Economic Community session that will begin around the beginning of next year to foster this move.

In his statement, the minister of state for foreign affairs also explained that U.S. diplomacy desires stability in the area and does not want Soviet interference there. In this respect, Dr Ghali noted U.S. readiness to respond to any move made by the Arab side for the sake of peace in the area.

He said that Egyptian diplomacy will hold further contacts with the U.S. side in the next phase. Dr Ghali explained that undoubtedly the Arab stance will be much stronger before the U.S. side if some form of Arab conciliation is achieved.

In his statement, Dr Butrus Ghali dealt with the recent U.S.-Israeli strategic [cooperation] agreement. He said that it is nothing more than an agreement. Dr Ghali added that the United States has promised to take Egypt's objections to this projected agreement into consideration in the course of negotiations that the United States will hold with Israel on this agreement within the coming weeks.

The minister of state for foreign affairs also explained that if tripartite negotiations commence among Egypt, Jordan, and the PLO, or bilateral negotiations between Jordan and the PLO, and if these succeed, then they will be given full support.

In his statement, Dr Ghali referred to the position in connection with Tabah. He said that under the peace treaty the dispute over Tabah must be resolved through negotiation, conciliation, or arbitration.

He said that hitherto the negotiations have not begun on the formation of the Conciliation Committee. He pointed out that the reason is the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, as well as Egypt's refusal to hold the negotiations in Jerusalem.

Dr Ghali emphasized that 1984 will be a year of triumph for Egyptian diplomatic action for peace in the area. He also asserted Egypt's interest in providing a solution to the Middle East crisis that will not be at the expense of Egypt's interest in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, and also not at the expense of human rights and racial discrimination issues, or at the expense of the issues connected with the fate and future of international action.

Dr Ghali dealt with the Soviet Union's stand on the Middle East, pointing out that Egyptian diplomacy holds the view that it is impossible to find a final solution to the Middle East crisis without the Soviet Union's participation in the negotiations yet to take place. Dr Ghali emphasized that it is impossible for the Middle East crisis to end without an agreement having been established on it between the U.S. and Soviet sides. He also affirmed that Egypt welcomes any rapprochement between those two powers. In concluding his statement, Dr Ghali touched on Egyptian-African relations, saying that Egypt seeks to buttress Egyptian-African relations in their various forms. He added that there are also interests connected with Egypt's relations with the Nile Basin states from the premise of the need to implement new projects for the storage of water outside the borders of Egypt and Sudan.

'Ali: 'Arafat Visit 'Encouraging'

LD231209 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said after his meeting last night with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, that their talks centered on a number of international topics connected with the Middle East and Africa. He explained that the talks also dealt with the Egyptian-French initiative aimed at establishing peace in the Middle East, and said he believes it needs to be revived.

He said that the PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo yesterday is considered an encouraging development. He pointed out that Egypt has called on the United States to initiate a dialogue with the Palestinians.

Ash-Sharif: Government Backs PLO

NC252029 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Mr Safwat ash-Sharif, minister of state for information, has emphasized that Egypt backs the legitimacy of the PLO represented by Yasir 'Arafat's leadership. He also noted that it is time for the PLO to hold a dialogue with Jordan to work out a formula for joining the peace process. He noted that the Palestinian cause is exposed to danger, the West Bank and Gaza sector are exposed to loss, and settlements are being established in these two territories.

In an interview to be published in tomorrow's edition of the Saudi newspaper *AL-YAWM*, Mr Safwat ash-Sharif reasserted that the U.S.-Israeli strategic [cooperation] agreement affects the Middle East peace process and also creates an atmosphere of a lack of confidence in the area.

Mr Safwat ash-Sharif welcomed the resumption of Arab-Egyptian relations, emphasizing that the Egyptian-Israeli relations will not fetter Egypt's will.

PLO Appreciation for Reception

NC261916 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 26 Dec (MENA) — Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din this afternoon received a Palestinian delegation of PLO officials in Egypt. The delegation included Zuhdi al-Qudrah, Dr Nabil Sha'ath, and Sa'id Kamal. Sa'id Kamal told MENA that the delegation conveyed to His Excellency, the prime minister, in his capacity as secretary general of the National Democratic Party, the appreciation and thanks of the sons of Palestine residing in Egypt for the great reception that the Palestinian forces — under the aegis of Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman — were accorded at their ports of call in Port Said, Ismailia, and Suez. Thanks were also expressed for the great hospitality extended to Yasir 'Arafat by His Excellency President Husni Mubarak.

Labor Party Praises Meeting

NC241150 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA) — In its final session, the Second General Labor Party Congress praised President Husni Mubarak's meeting with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat while the latter was passing through Egyptian territory.

The congress affirmed that this meeting strengthened the efforts Egypt is making to regain the Palestinian people's rights and called for the solidarity of all the national and popular forces in the Arab countries for the return of Egypt to the Arab fold.

At its session last night under the chair of engineer Ibrahim Shukri, the congress called for a top to bottom reformation of the party structure by election time. It also called for adherence to the safeguards for free and neutral elections, as affirmed by President Mubarak and Interior Minister Hasan Abu Basha.

In its recommendations, the congress called for the cancellation of the requirement that a party obtain 8 percent of the total number of voters in the republic. It also called for the need to reconsider the conditional foreign aid and to gradually limit it and replace it with Arab investments.

The congress also called for adherence to the non-aligned principles and for establishing balanced relations with the East and West.

The final session was attended by Sa'id Kamal, Yasir 'Arafat representative, who conveyed a message of thanks from 'Arafat to engineer Ibrahim Shukri for his participation in the Egyptian popular delegation which visited 'Arafat during the Tripoli siege.

The congress held its meetings at the headquarters of the Agricultural Development and Credit Bank in Cairo.

Egypt Never 'Abandoned' PLO

NC231155 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0918 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 23 Dec (MENA) — Dr Mustafa Khalil, deputy leader of the National Democratic Party, has stressed that Egypt never abandoned the Palestinian resistance and has always and constantly worked for a solution of the Palestine question. No one can accuse Egypt of giving up this issue.

Discussing the events in Tripoli, Khalil said that the dissidents inflicted more losses on the PLO than Israel did through their hostile action. Regarding the Egyptian stance on the Lebanese problem, Dr Khalil said that Egypt has condemned the Israeli aggression in Lebanon and has called for the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Lebanese territory without obtaining any political or economic concessions for its aggression. Dr Mustafa Khalil made these statements in an interview granted to Khayriyah, MENA correspondent for party affairs. Dr Khalil said that the primary problem facing the PLO was that Syria cannot envisage a solution of the Palestine question without linking it to a solution of the Golan problem. Hence the PLO can either maintain the freedom of Palestinian decisionmaking or place itself under Syrian trusteeship.

Dr Khalil noted that when Syria perceived that Yasir 'Arafat could make independent decisions it rushed to destroy the PLO. The Syrians did not destroy the PLO by peaceful means but by aggression where Palestinians fought one another. Dr Khalil stressed that the Arab states must not decide for the Palestinians, but the Palestinians themselves must determine and approve any matter relating to them.

Dr Khalil noted the intensive diplomatic efforts initiated by President Husni Mubarak to ensure the departure of Yasir 'Arafat and his forces from Tripoli, and said that Egypt's stance is positive and realistic in this respect. It is the same rational and positive stance constantly adopted in tackling events.

On Egyptian-Arab relations, Dr Khalil affirmed that Egypt welcomes any Arab state seeking to restore relations with it and said that the decision is up to each Arab state. Dr Khalil believes the reason for delaying the normalization of relations between Egypt and the Arab states is due to their belief that it must be a unanimous decision just as the decision to sever these relations was unanimously adopted at the Baghdad conference.

He noted in this respect Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri's recent statement that this would not take place at an Arab summit but would be possible to restore relations with Egypt bilaterally.

Regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war, Dr Khalil expressed the view that Iraq has no alternative but to fight now that Iran is determined to continue the war and solve the problem on its own terms. Dr Khalil noted that if there have been any specific moves they obviously are directed at increasing Iraq's capability and steadfastness in the war. It has been revealed that the mediation calling for negotiations or for exerting more pressure on Iran has been rejected by Iran. Therefore, there are no means for convincing Iran to end the war but to promote Iraq's ability to fight.

On the parliamentary life in Egypt, Dr Khalil said that president Husni Mubarak has always affirmed that the next parliamentary elections, scheduled to be held in April, will be held in freedom, and complete neutrality and honesty.

Dr Khalil said that the parliamentary elections will be held on a proportional list basis which provides that a party must obtain at least eight percent of the electoral votes. He expressed surprise that the opposition parties desire to reduce or abolish this proportion. Dr Khalil asked: How can a party claim that it represents the masses when it does not possess eight percent of the electoral vote.

Responding to a question on the possibility that the opposition will boycott the next elections to the People's Assembly, Dr Khalil said that if this happens it would hurt both the interests of the opposition itself and the interests of democracy. Dr Khalil called on the opposition to exercise objective and rational political action that will provide solutions to our problems. However, he added that action merely based on stirring up criticism over mistakes is not political action.

Asked about the possibility that the opposition parties will enter the next parliamentary elections with a unified list, Dr Khalil said that the law on political parties does not stipulate that member candidates of any specific party should have been a member of that party for a specific period. Therefore, the law does not object to a unified list agreed upon by more than one party.

He said that the law does not prevent the resignation of a member of the People's Assembly after his success in the elections from the party under the list of which he entered the elections and then rejoining his original party.

On the Al-Wafd Party's stand regarding the elections, Dr Khalil said that the party is awaiting the court's ruling in its case. He said that if the ruling favors the party, its leader, Fu'ad Siraj ad-Din, will then not be entitled to practice politics as party leader unless the court rules in his favor in the case he filed requesting that the order depriving him of political work be cancelled.

AL-AHRAM Criticizes Israeli Protest

NC240806 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 24 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] *AL-AHRAM* says in its editorial: There has been surprise coupled with grief in Cairo now that Israel has shown its anger, which is unjustifiable and which it has no right to show. Israel was angered to see PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, cross the Suez Canal and arrive in Port Said on the anniversary of the very day on which the Egyptian people triumphed over the aggressors.

The paper wonders: Why is Israel angered by this meeting between President Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat? Why is Israel angered by this fraternal and sincere reception which the Egyptian people have given the chairman of the PLO? 'Arafat demands his people's legitimate and just rights so that it will be possible to establish peace on a just basis, and that this peace will be a comprehensive one.

The paper says that Egypt has never opposed the PLO, nor has it imposed a viewpoint on or deprived the PLO of making any of its own decisions. The PLO leader came to Port Said, crossed the canal, met with his brother Muhammad Husni Mubarak, and then proceeded on his way. Meanwhile, numerous forces had earlier compelled 'Arafat and his fighters to leave the land on which they had lived following their expulsion from their homeland.

In concluding its article, the paper welcomes all those who want to restore Palestinian rights and defend the legitimacy of these rights, so that these rights can be endorsed. Then the hope for peace will be revived; numerous quarters want to crush this hope in a way that would provide them with the opportunity to implement their designs against peace. The reason is that these forces are opposed to justice.

Commentary Praises Egyptian Role

NC231622 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Usamah 'Abd al-Ghani commentary: "A Natural Meeting To Strengthen Peace and Arab Unity"]

[Text] It was natural for the Egyptian and Palestinian leaderships to hold such a close meeting. Egypt realized that this meeting would enrage certain people, while strengthening the peace process. This meeting would raise the hopes of the U.S. Administration to revive President Reagan's initiative for peace in the Middle East. We know that this initiative includes a proposal to establish an independent Palestinian entity in confederation [wahdah] with Jordan. We understand why certain people are worried about this meeting, but are not convinced by certain parties' hasty reactions to it. We consider their reactions hasty and premature and expect them to eventually dissipate.

'Arafat stopped over in Egypt before any other country after months of siege and offered thanks and gratitude to its people and leadership for the great role Cairo played in facilitating the lifting of the siege of the steadfast fighters and their safe departure from Tripoli. Thus, it was natural that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat should come to Cairo and hold talks with President Mubarak yesterday. Egypt has adopted a clear stand in support of the PLO and its legitimate leadership since it was subjected to liquidation in Beirut last year. Egypt has translated this stand into diplomatic contacts and actions to save the PLO and its leadership, and into aid and naval and air protection for the departing Palestinian leaders even before the ships reached Egyptian territorial waters, and until they reach their destination.

Egypt's position is strong and decisive as manifested in President Husni Mubarak's statement. He affirmed that Egypt will not relinquish the Palestinian issue and that its support for this issue will continue. It is clear that the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting renders null and void the pretexts of those who desire a continuation of the isolation and rupture of relations between Egypt and the Arabs. This meeting also extends Palestinian bridges to Cairo as Egypt extended its bridges to the Palestinian revolution and several Arab capitals. This important development is supposed to accelarate the closing of Arab ranks in which Egypt will regain its proper place in the Arab fold, now that events have proven that the Arabs cannot dispense with Egypt as Egypt cannot dispense with the Arabs.

AL-JUMHURIYAH on Visit's Importance

NC232245 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2155 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 23 Dec (MENA) — Cairo's *AL-JUMHURIYAH* emphasizes that Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with the Egyptian leadership is a real beginning for the Arab ranks to again confront the challenges and dangers which threaten to tear it asunder.

In a commentary to be published in tomorrow's edition, the paper explains that the divergent reactions to the importance of 'Arafat's meeting with the Egyptian leadership is proof that the unity of the Arab ranks constitutes a strength which many powers coveting the region and which are united in their determination to weaken the Arab ranks and dominate them, fear.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: Let the 'Arafat-Egypt meeting be a turning point in the realization of the aim of regaining the usurped rights of the Palestinian people.

In conclusion, the paper calls on Arab leaders to resort to reason and logic in order to unite the Arabs so that Arab ranks may again realize the aims of Arab unity.

'Ali Returns From U.S., Makes Statement

NC231530 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1224 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 23 Dec (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Cairo this afternoon from Washington at the end of a 5-day visit to the United States.

Upon his arrival, 'Ali said he is carrying a message to President Husni Mubarak from U.S. President Ronald Reagan in reply to the president's message concerning the deteriorating situation in the area and the importance of reactivating the peace process, particularly in relation to the Lebanese and Palestinian questions.

'Ali said he would submit a thorough report to President Mubarak on the talks he held with the U.S. President, Secretary of State George Shultz, and a number of other U.S. officials, and on his evaluation of the visit. In his statement, 'Ali dealt with the goals and results of his visit. He said he had conveyed a message from President Mubarak to President Reagan regarding the situation in the Middle East and Egypt's concern over the efforts to bring about a settlement, particularly in light of the strategic cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel, in order to stimulate the Palestinian issue, because a solution to it must not be delayed until after the Lebanese problem is solved.

'Ali pointed out that he had received new clarifications and explanations regarding the strategic cooperation agreement. In addition, U.S. officials conveyed to him the U.S. desire to bolster cooperation with the Arab countries and continue the peace process. He added that he set forth certain Egyptian views in order to stimulate the negotiating process and process for solving the Palestinian issue during his talks in Washington. He pointed out that the U.S. side responded to these ideas and that certain solutions are still being studied by the U.S. and Egyptian sides. 'Ali said that during his talks with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, he discussed the method by which the United Nations work in Lebanon and the Middle East can be consolidated, particularly regarding the Palestinian issue.

In reply to a question on Yasir 'Arafat's ouster from Tripoli and his visit to Egypt, 'Ali stressed that the United States welcomed the visit, particularly since it followed repeated statements by 'Arafat while in Tripoli regarding dialogue with King Husayn of Jordan and proceeding toward a political settlement. In answer to another question, 'Ali denied any Egyptian-U.S. coordination between Egypt and the United States regarding 'Arafat's visit to

Egypt. He said Washington did not know of the visit, but was informed by our side that he would stop over in Cairo, a situation they welcomed.

Asked whether there is any difference between the U.S. interpretation of the strategic agreement between the United States and Israel and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statement in this respect, 'Ali said that what had been agreed upon during Shamir's visit to Washington was a number of principles. It is expected that there will be a detailed agreement when the joint U.S.-Israeli committee meets in January; thus, we are awaiting the meetings of this committee and their outcome.

Asked about the significance of 'Arafat's visit to Egypt, 'Ali affirmed that it means that the PLO is on its way to using peaceful means according to the Fes Arab summit and President Reagan's initiative on the understanding that the initiative is still alive and that the PLO did not object to it, but showed reservations on some of its articles.

Asked whether his visit to the United Nations means that Egypt wants to revive the Egyptian-French plan on the Middle East, 'Ali said the Egyptian-French draft is within the solutions and means being considered to move the issue. He pointed out that this plan was submitted under circumstances that differ from the present ones and that concentration in the past was on aspects that differ from current ones. This requires a reconsideration of these issues, but the substance remains the same.

In answer to another question, 'Ali asserted that the United States welcomes the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, and consequently welcomed 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and his statements before departing Tripoli.

Regarding U.S. nonrecognition of the PLO, 'Ali said Washington does not recognize the PLO and we know the conditions that it puts in this respect, such as the PLO's recognition of UN Resolution No 242 and others. However, Egypt has consistently demanded that the United States contact the PLO.

In reply to another question, 'Ali said the United States emphasized that it wants to establish strong relations with Egypt and other moderate Arab countries. This can create equilibrium regarding U.S. relations with the countries of the area. Asked whether 'Arafat's visit to Egypt indicates a possibility that the PLO may participate in future peace talks, 'Ali said that stating the desire to hold a dialogue with Jordan goes along the same line.

Asked about the current trade talks between Egypt and Jordan and their significance concerning Egyptian-Arab relations, 'Ali pointed out that this issue was agreed upon a month ago and is currently being implemented during the Egyptian economic minister's visit there. He said that it was decided to promote relations between Egypt and the Arab countries at the latest Arab summit conference and that the Egyptian-Jordanian trade agreement is a step on this road.

Asked what Egypt requests from 'Arafat, 'Ali expressed the hope that 'Arafat will fulfill the statements he made before departing Tripoli when he stressed his desire to continue the dialogue with Jordan. 'Ali pointed out that Egypt welcomes this dialogue and will support both sides in reaching an agreement, if the need arises.

Asked for his view on the reactions of certain Arab states and Palestinian organizations to 'Arafat's visit to Egypt, 'Ali said: I believe the PLO will need some time to make its own decisions.

'Arafat must not lose any more time and make the decisions necessary to solve the problem, particularly in light of the suffering of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza.

Briefs PNC's Kamal

NC241534 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met with PNC member Sa'id Kamal. Following the meeting, Sa'id Kamal said 'Ali briefed him on the results of the talks he had in Washington, particularly regarding the Palestinian issue in the wake of the latest developments. 'Ali explained Egypt's efforts in the forthcoming stage to restore the Palestinian people's rights and to achieve a just solution to the Palestinian issue.

Israel Asked to Explain Death of Egyptian

NC250806 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Cairo, 25 Dec (MENA) — *AL-AKHBAR* reports today that Egypt has asked Israel to provide an adequate explanation regarding the death by hanging of an Egyptian youth in an Israeli prison.

Israeli authorities had said that the Egyptian youth committed suicide by hanging himself with a sheet in prison while serving a 2-day sentence for refusing to pay a $15 fine.

Israeli authorities had arrested Egyptian national Fawzi 'Abd al-Malik Mikha'il and referred him to court without notifying the Egyptian consulate in Elat in accordance with the principles of international dealings and arrangements agreed on between the two countries.

AL-AKHBAR says that this is the second incident in a month in whic Israel has arrested an Egyptian national and detained him without notifying the embassy in Tel Aviv or the consulate in Elat.

AL-AKHBAR says that this incident comes at a time when Egyptian diplomats' complaints in Israel have increased due to repeated attacks on their possessions and the Israeli authorities' inability to handle these incidents.

This has created a feeling of insecurity despite the repeated contacts between the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and Israeli Government to put an end to what the Egyptians working in the embassy there have been confronting.

Ministry Acts on Death

NC261808 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 26 Dec (MENA) — The Egyptian Foreign Ministry today contacted the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv and Egyptian General Consulate in Elat and conveyed its instructions on Egyptian national Fawzi 'Abd al-Malik Khalil Mikha'il, who committed suicide in an Israeli prison following his arrest in Elat 2 days ago.

The Foreign Ministry also asked that appropriate measures be taken to immediately send the deceased's body to Egypt

Egypt had earlier notified Israel that this incident, as well as several other Israeli actions taken asgainst Egyptians in Elat, are regarded as conflicting with the police agreement concluded between the two countries. Under this agreement, the Egyptian Consulate should be immediately informed when an individual is arrested. Furthermore, the circumstances that surrounded the arrest of the Egyptian youth and his imprisonment and suicide are matters that arouse suspicion, create anxiety, and raise many questions. In addition, the dead Egyptian was imprisoned for just $15, a matter which absolutely does not require imprisonment. However, the practice is to inform the consulate, which usually makes settlement payment.

As-Sa'id Returns from Jordan; Brings Hasan Message

NC251914 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Dec (MENA) — Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id, minister of economy and foreign trade, and the delegation accompanying him returned to Cairo this evening following a week-long visit to Jordan. Upon arrival, As-Sa'id said Jordan's viceroy and Crown Prince Hasan conveyed an oral message to him for President Husni Mubarak.

Soviet TU Delegation To Visit in February

NC251706 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1526 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 25 Dec (MENA) — Mr Muhammad Fu'ad Darahim, secretary general of the General Union of Mines and Quarries Workers, has stated that a Soviet workers delegation will visit Egypt around the beginning of February.

The delegation will be headed by Mikhail Serbin [name as received] chairman of the Central Committee of the Soviet Mine Workers Union.

Mr Darahim said his union has received notification of this visit, which is thought to be the first visit by a Soviet delegation to Egypt in a decade.

The Soviet trade unionist had told an Egyptian union delegation that visited the Soviet Union last August on the occasion of the World Trade Unions Conference for Combatting the Nuclear Armament Policy that he wanted to visit Egypt.

Trade Cooperation Protocol Signed With PRC

NC251234 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 25 Dec (MENA) — A trade protocol between Egypt and China has been signed for 1984. It aims at increasing the volume of trade between the countries to $120 million.

The protocol, which was signed yesterday within the framework of the Payments and Trade Agreement ratified between the two countries on 21 March 1977, stipulated that foremost among Egyptian exports to China should be cotton, aluminum ingots, phosphates, urea fertilizers, medicine, chemicals, and medicinal herbs.

Chinese exports to Egypt include tea, canned mutton, frozen rabbits, spare bicycle parts, electric motors not locally produced dyes, ingredients necessary for the production of dyes, chemicals, and raw silk necessary for industry.

Husayn Ahmad Husayn, Economy and Foreign Trade Ministry under secretary, yesterday held talks with Zhen Retiru Pen, Chinese trade and economic relations deputy minister [name and title as received] who arrived in Cairo Thursday on a 5-day visit to Egypt.

Muhyi ad-Din Delivers Mubarak Port Said Message

NC231823 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Port Said, 23 Dec (MENA) — Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din this morning deputized for President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at a ceremony held by the Port Said Governorate in celebration of its national day. The holiday coincides with Victory Day and was commemorated at the governorate's Martyrs Square.

Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din opened the ceremony by placing a wreath at the heroic city's Tomb for Martyrs, which stands in the city center.

The ceremony was attended by Ports Said Governor Sayyid Sarhan; Sa'd Ma'mun, minister of state for local government; Wajih Shindi, minister of international investment and cooperation; Shaykh Ibrahim ad-Dusuqi, minister of [state for] awqaf; engineer Mahir Abaza, minister of electricity and energy; Major General Mahfuz Hamdi, commander of the 2d Field Army; Brigadier General Mahmud Khalifah, commander of the Port Said military sector; and the political and popular leaderships.

Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din read the following message from President Mubarak:

Brother citizens: Port Said's history and name have always been associated with heroism; with the honor of struggling and being the first to struggle in defense of Egypt's pride and dignity. Port Said has also always been the first to crown Egypt with laurels in completion of Egypt's march through history and in the maintenance of Egypt's ties with its past, when Egypt's great army repulsed the aggressive barbarians in Hittin, 'Ayn Jalut, and al-Manusrah. Egypt's great army then crushed the barbarians' ambitions, thus affirming that the torch of freedom is inextinguishable and that nations can achieve their aspired greatness and firmly stand their ground vis-a-vis the challenges that are imposed by the imperialist powers through the determination of their sons and through their ability to make sacrifices to raise the banners of freedom, justice, and righteousness everywhere.

On the occasion of Victory Day, and in your immortal city, memory takes us back — with all pride and dignity — to those glorious days when you repelled aggression, shook the peoples' conscience, and resurrected the will for independence and liberation from exploitation in the minds of the world's peace-loving forces which struggle for human dignity and believe in the peoples' freedom. These peace-loving forces believe in freedom as a matter of fate and destiny. They also believe that their interests must be interconnected so that they can guarantee the complementariness of these interests. Thus, the peace-loving forces can move in a world that teems with sublime values and which is not shattered by ambitions.

You set the example, and you served as a model, when — through solidity and national dignity and in conjunction with our great people and their armed forces — you faced a tripartite aggression that tried, under the false pretense of disengaging the belligerent forces and ensuring safe passage through the canal to shatter Egypt's free decisionmaking power. This aggression also tried to make Egypt's fate a lesson to be learned by others, to bury at its birth the voice of freedom, and to lower the curtain of darkness on the peoples who aspire to their freedom. The purpose was to ensure that these peoples will remain crushed because of their weakness, weak because of their fear, fragmented because of their conflicts, and helpless under the yoke of the oppressive forces dominating them. Another purpose was to bring these peoples to their knees under the whiplashes of the oppressive forces, while these peoples would be completely unable to decide anything for themselves, or ward off hideous exploitation that exhausted their resources.

The tripartite aggression concentrated its might and rancor on your great city so that it could set forth from there to reoccupy the land of Egypt. This aggression again desired to cast its dark shadow on this land, after this shadow had receded. The tripartite aggression also wanted to set back the hands of time in perpetuating this aggression's ambitions and in strengthening its foothold — and this is always the lesson taught by history! This is because rights can only be protected by strength. Strength is not born from a vacuum, but stems from faith in the homeland and ability to make sacrifices and give oneself in defense of the homeland's dignity. Nor were the hopes that the aggressors had pinned on their aggression to be achieved after these hopes had been nipped in the bud by the great people of Port Said. This great people then set out — men, women, and children — to inflict sleeplessness on the aggressors with their stubborn resistance and shatter the aggressors' impudence and ambitions with their solid will.

We have lived with you the epics of your struggle in defense of the honorable principles for which we have fought. You have always proved that freedom is synonomous with dignity through your steadfastness, and that the banners of freedom can never be lowered, and the fruits and driving force of freedom inspired the nations and confirm their revolutionary spirit. You have also proved that the defense of freedom is the ultimate safeguard of the independence of national will, as well as a confirmation of international legitimacy. As expected, you have set the example for daring and sacrifice to promote the homeland's sublime values and to propagate them among the many nations that have taken you as an example for their struggle and beacon for their march.

This is why Port Said has become a song that is sung and a legend that is told. The people of Port Said have become an immortal symbol and their struggle has become an unrepeatable honor. This is how Victory Day — which we are now celebrating — originated!

Greetings to Egypt. Greetings to Port Said and greatness for all the daring patriots on its land! Peace be with you!

Mubarak Sends Christmas Greetings to Reagan

NC241236 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA) — On the occasion of Christmas and the New Year, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak sent the following telegram of congratulations to U.S. President Ronald Reagan:

I take pleasure in conveying to Your Excellency my sincerest, cordial congratulations on Christmas and the New Year. I hope that this year will mark the beginning of a new era in which peace will prevail and security and safety will engulf the world for the good and progress of man in all domains.

We express our appreciation for the stand taken by the friendly U.S. people and their support for our efforts that are geared to achieving a just and lasting peace in our area. We confidently look toward the continuation of the positive U.S. role as an effective partner in generating momentum for the peace efforts and in solving the Palestinian people's issue — the core and essence of the Arab-Israeli conflict. We hope that these efforts will yield fruit so that safety and security will prevail in this vital area of the world.

I am confident that the relations of friendship and creative cooperation existing between our two friendly peoples will witness further development and growth which will be to their common benefit and will foster world security and safety.

Please accept my sincerest greetings and best wishes for the good health and happiness of Your Excellency. I wish added prosperity for your friendly people. Please accept my highest respect and appreciation.

Greetings to Mitterrand

NC241346 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak sent the following cable to French President Francois Mitterrand on the occasion of Christmas and the New Year:

I am pleased to send Your Excellency sincere heartfelt congratulations on Christmas and the New Year. I wish you good health and happiness and the fraternal French people continued progress and prosperity. We express our appreciation for the friendly French people's stand on the Middle East issue and their support for our efforts aimed at establishing a permanent and just peace in our area. We confidently look forward to the continuation of this positive and active role so that peace and security may prevail in the Middle East. I am confident that the historic relations and the ties of friendship and fruitful cooperation between our two friendly countries will further develop as time goes by to their mutual benefit and benefit of world peace and security. With my highest appreciation and esteem.

Abu Ghazalah Attends Air Force Tactical Exercise

NC261739 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 26 Dec (MENA) — Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, witnessed the "The Fall Winds" tactical exercise conducted today by elements from the Air Force in cooperation with paratrooper units, and those assigned to airborne landings and medical evacuations. The exercise provided training in securing control of vital targets behind enemy defenses.

After the exercise Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah praised the excellent performance of the pilots and called for even greater achievements and training and more maneuvers. He promised to act to introduce the most modern helicopters to the Air Force, in addition to its modern aircraft.

The "Fall Winds" tactical exercise began amid difficult weather conditions, including strong winds and rain. The exercise included certain air reconnaissance drills by helicopters equipped with military electronic devices for operational areas and aimed at finding a gap in enemy defenses and jamming enemy radar.

The exercise was also attended by chief of staff of [words indistinct], Lieutenant General Ibrahim al-'Urabi; Air Force Commander Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim; Ismailia Governor 'Abd al-Mun'im 'Amarah; Brigadier General Kazim Salam Zanati, commander of the paratroopers units; and a number of Armed Forces commanders.

Armed Forces Issue Military Communiques

No 1,319

JN231703 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Dec (INA) — Iraq has announced that it set fire to and destroyed a rescue ship and a naval target in Khowr-e Musa in the northeastern part of the Arab Gulf. Communique No 1,319, issued tonight by the Armed Forces General Command, says that the Iraqi forces killed or wounded several Iranian troops and destroyed several enemy guns east of Basra and two infantry positions in the central sector.

The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,319 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With capable brave men, our heroic Armed Forces are continuing their battle against the Iranian aggressors, scoring further victories over the forces of the coveting Khomeyniite clique. The results of the activities carried out yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Last night the enemy tried to save what remained of its naval targets that were hit and destroyed by our capable fighter planes and bold naval units in Khowr-e Musa, in the northeastern part of the Arab Gulf, as announced by our Communique No 1,318 and yesterday's military spokesman's statement. It sent a rescue ship escorted by several enemy targets toward the site of the hit and destroyed targets. Our valiant naval units confronted them with strong and surprising blows and managed to destroy the enemy rescue ship and the naval target it was trying to save. The rest of the enemy targets fled in panic, leaving behind the rescue ship and the other naval target sinking in the sea in flames. Our forward observation posts heard the sounds of explosions echoing from the area. All our naval units returned safely to base after carrying out their mission with great success. Praise be to God.

2. Our forward units opened artillery fire on several enemy targets, infantry positions, and artillery emplacements opposite our positions east of Basra, scoring direct and effective hits, killing or wounding a number of enemy troops, and destroying several guns. Several fires were seen in the attacked enemy targets.

3. One of our forward units pounded several enemy positions opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield, destroying two infantry positions and both hitting and killing their occupants.

4. Today the criminal Iranian regime shelled Mandali and its environs with heavy artillery, damaging a number of civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 December 1983

No 1,320

JN241806 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,320 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 24 December 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In defense of lofty Iraq's sovereignty and to safeguard the security and future of the glorious Arab nation, our heroic Armed Forces are continuing their operations against the aggressor Iranian enemy's forces. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. One of our forward units sighted an enemy patrol attempting to approach its forward concentrations east of Basra. It opened fire on the enemy patrol with various weapons, killing a number of its personnel and forcing the remaining forces to flee. Elsewhere in the same sector, our artillery engaged the enemy artillery's positions and concentrations, scoring direct and effective hits and inflicting heavy losses in equipment and personnel.

2. One of our forward units opened fire on a group of enemy personnel opposite its positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing two and wounding others.

3. One was killed and others were wounded in the Maysan operational sector.

4. The criminals ruling Iran shelled the city of Khanaqin and its suburbs with artillery today. The enemy shelling led to the destruction of a number of civilian installations.

[Signed] the Armed Forces General Command, 24 December 1983

No 1,321

JN251812 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,321 issued by Iraqi Armed Foces General Command on 25 Decemebr 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The sons of our people and our brave Armed Forces are continuing their operations against the aggressor Iranian enemy's forces. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. One of our forward units used various weapons to open fire on an enemy group which attempted to approach its forward positions in the central sector of the operational theater, killing two personnel, wounding others, and seizing a quantity of various weapons. Elsewhere in the same sector, five enemy soldiers were killed, others were wounded, and one infantry position was destroyed.

2. Our forward observation posts sighted in the Maysan sector at 1015 today an enemy warplane crashing in flames inside Iranian territory. Its pilot landed in ('Ayn Kosh). The enemy warplane was downed by the enemy units themselves, a fact that affirms the state of confusion that has befallen the enemy and the panic that has gripped its ground and air forces as a result of our brave forces' strikes.

3. One of our combat patrols opened fire with various weapons on a number of excavators and enemy positions opposite the positions of our forward units east of Basra. They hit one excavator and wounded a number of enemy personnel. Our forward units also opened artillery fire on enemy targets opposite our positions in the same sector, scoring direct and effective hits.

4. The criminal Khomeyniite clique shelled Mandali, Shihabi, Qasabat Sayyd Sadiq, and the Shandri area and its outskirts with heavy artillery. The savage enemy shelling resulted in the killing of one citizen and the wounding of five civilians, including a woman, in Qasabat Sayyd Sadiq and the Shandri area.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 December 1983

No 1,322

JN261649 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1602 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Dec (INA) — Iraqi units continue to strike Iranian forces along the front. They either killed or wounded a number of enemy soldiers and destroyed one vehicle, one infantry position, and one hardware stockpile. Communique No 1,322 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command here tonight said that Iraqi helicopter gunships attacked Iranian vehciles and engineering equipment in the southern sector of the front and scored effective direct hits. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,322 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces have continued their operations at the front against the aggressive Iranian enemy forces. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our combat patrol units pounded an enemy troop concentration opposite our forward positions in the area east of Basra, killing or wounding a number of men. In another area of the same sector yesterday, our helicopter gunships attacked a number of vehicles and engineering equipment and scored effective direct hits.

2. Our forward units opposite their positions in the northern sector of the front destroyed one vehicle and one infantry position.

3. One was killed in the Maysan sector.

4. One hardware stockpile was destroyed in the central sector of the front.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 December 1983

Military Spokesman on Continued Iranian Shelling

JN242137 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Despite our continued warnings to the clique of crime and evil that rules in Iran against the continuation of strikes against Iraqi civilian installations, and to stop shelling peaceful border cities, this clique has become more intransigent and insistent on expressing its rancor against Iraq and the Iraqis. This criminal clique has continued shelling our border cities and villages. More shelling occured today when this clique shelled the city of Khanaqin and its suburbs. By doing this, it violated the simplest commitment to any international law or norm.

In light of this, we are obliged to defend our people and their security. We will strike at selected targets deep in the Iranian territory. This measure might force the Khomeyniite clique to respond to the logic of wisdom and right, stop its intrusion and acts of crime and evil, resort to reason, and respect Iraq's independence and the Iraqis' dignity. God is the granter of success.

24 December 1983

General Calls for Striking Deep in Iran

JN270922 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 22 Dec 83 p 3

[Article by Staff Major General 'Abd ar-Rahim Taha al-Ahmad: "Why Is the Iraqi-Iranian War Continuing?"]

[Excerpts] War is an old phenomenon. It is as ancient as man himself. In the past it began with a quarrel between two persons and then between two families. Later, it developed until it became a conflict between two armies on a specific area of land. For a period of time, nations were exposed to suffering without having the right to run their own affairs. Today, however, the concept of war has changed. War has become comprehensive, affecting all aspects of human activity. It affects the society's economic, political, and social activities. War now concerns every individual, enters every house, and involves the workshop, the farm, and the factory.

The emergence of sophisticated weapons and equipment of total destruction has added new dimensions to the battlefronts, which are no longer confined to the confrontation line between two armies, but have expanded to cover all the territories, airspace, and territorial waters of the warring parties. Modern armies, including the Iraqi Army, possess sophisticated weapons that can strike the strategic depth of the enemy. Therefore, conflicting states do all they can to shorten the war in view of the suffering, woe, and human and material losses involved.

The prolongation of the Iraqi-Iranian war by the suspect Khomeynitte clique which has brought only misery and destruction to the Iranian peoples stems from that clique's stupid view of the war.

President Saddam Husayn has offered the peace of brave men to Iran since 28 September 1980. But the Khomeynitte clique has turned down that humanitarian call, which expressed a responsible free will. That mean clique also turned down all international, Arab, and Islamic peace efforts and mediations and all UN resolutions, including Security Council Resolution 540 of 31 October 1983.

The suspect Iranian regime will continue its intransigence. It will continue to prolong the war and to reject peace in the region.

Therefore, the war can be ended and security and peace achieved only by making painful military blows deep in Iran and destroying Iran's vital installations and all that strengthens Iran's military capability, steadfastness, and continuation with the war.

This is the decisive factor in ending the war. There are other supporting factors. They are:

1. The Arab role and effective Arab solidarity to put an end to the Iranian regime's recklessness. Effective Arab solidarity, after the isolation of the Al-Qadhdhafi and Al-Asad regimes, will greatly contribute toward ending the war by applying the collective Arab defense pact.

2. Since the Iranian regime has turned down all peace efforts, the strategy of enforcing peace must be adopted by the Arab states and the United Nations, especially the Security Council. This is in order to force the Iranian regime to accept peace and end the war, which is affecting world peace and security. These states can begin by putting political and economic pressure, and later military pressure, on Iran.

Saddam Husayn Receives Saudi Crown Prince

JN251736 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] President Saddam Husayn received His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister, this afternoon. Discussion dealt with situation in the Arab arena and bilateral relations.

Attending the meeting were 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC vice chairman; Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister and RCC member; Sa'dun Shakir, minister of interior and RCC member; and the Saudi ambassador in Baghdad.

President Saddam Husayn today hosted a luncheon banquet in honor of His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf, vice president and RCC member; a number of RCC members; and the director of the president's office attended the banquet.

Prime Minister on 'Arafat's Meeting With Mubarak

JN261446 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1220 GMT 26 Dec 83

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] The National Consultative Council [NCC] held a session today in the presence of Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the ministers. A number of NCC members spoke about 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and his meeting with President Husni Mubarak. Prime Minister Mudar Badran then spoke. he said:

[Begin recording] Brothers, I do not want our silence to be interpreted as a lack of opinion or a lack of a counteropinion. I am surprised by the speeches about PLO Chairman 'Arafat's visit to Cairo. Therefore, I would like to say the following:

Let me go back in time and speak about previous Arab meetings. In the Fes summit conference, we told the Arab leaders clearly and in front of everyone that contacts with the Arab Republic of Egypt would continue. Our view was that it was completely wrong to maintain our negative stands following the advent of a new leadership in Egypt and following the new Egyptian trend. To be negative means for us, the Arabs, to force Egypt to singlehandedly face all other political pressures — both Zionist and pro-Zionist pressures. Therefore, it was necessary for us to stand by Egypt and make it feel that its Arab brothers were standing by it, because the opposite stand would force it to fall into Zionist traps. We consider this stand to be correct because of Egypt's historic role and sacrifices, which are known to the Palestinian and Arab peoples.

Therefore, contacts and visits took place. His Majesty King Husayn met with President Husni Mubarak at the New Delhi nonaligned summit conference. All this was in the interest of the cause. Our first and last aim is to serve the cause. We wanted to attract Egypt to a unified Arab position and to stand by it because all of us, including many brothers in your esteemed council, have called for exerting our utmost to unify Arab Egypt with its Arab brothers. These are continuous political efforts. What will happen in the future cannot be predicted, but this does not mean that we should freeze our movements and be negative. Strenous efforts must be exerted in the general interest.

Concerning the PLO chairman's visit, it is not my duty to criticize this visit or to say anything about it, because I do not know what happened during the visit. In my opinion — and let us be realistic — the one who should evaluate this visit is the PLO chairman himself. He is the one to evaluate the visit. At the same time, I say that this concerns the PLO chairman, who is legally responsible for his behavior. If he believes that some action serves his purpose, he takes this action and vice versa. Therefore, he is the one to decide this.

We are not affected by negative stands that are expressed in certain areas. We are not affected by these stands and we cannot be affected by them, because we do not know their causes, their motives, or the pressures to which they are subjected. The visit has taken place. We pray God that it will serve the cause. We hope it will. [end recording]

Papers on Significance of 'Arafat's Cairo Visit

AD-DUSTUR Editorial

JN231250 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 23 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Significance of 'Arafat's Cairo Visit," *AD-DUSTUR* says: It seems that some Arab and Palestinian reactions to the meeting between PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak were hasty and anticipated events. Some attributed to this meeting political dimensions which may not be implied or which may not be valid in terms of the Egyptian and Palestinian parties. The Palestinian leader's crossing of Egyptian territory before any other Arab country after the siege dictated the meeting with President Mubarak to thank him and the Egyptian people for the big role Cairo played in facilitating the fighters' departure and to urge Cairo to support the Palestinian struggle in the coming stages.

There is no doubt that Yasir 'Arafat is fully aware of Egypt's weight, the importance of its role, and its political and nonpolitical potentials on the international level. He is also fully aware of the extent of the losses inflicted on the Palestinians and the Palestine cause due to Egypt's isolation from the Arab world. Yasir 'Arafat's departure for Egypt then means his appreciation for Egypt and its people for the brave stand Egypt adopted toward the Palestinian strugglers during their first siege in Beirut, and the second siege in Tripoli, and his appreciation for the efforts Egypt exerted to stop the Palestinian bloodshed and to provide protection for the strugglers who were besieged during the crucial hours between the enemy's vileness and the brothers' treason.

We must admit that the Palestinian leader's meeting with the Egyptian president yesterday will cause various arguments, predictions, and reaction everywhere. Perhaps what attracts attention now is the Israeli reaction which came quickly and violently when Shamir could not control himself as he announced that he was very surprised, concerned, and indignant about the meeting, saying that it threatens the peace process, as if Israel were interested in peace.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: As we consider the Israeli reaction natural and in harmony with Israel's plan to strengthen the siege around Egypt's moves toward the Arabs and toward supporting the Palestinian right, we believe that some Arab and Palestinian reaction to Abu 'Ammar's visit to Cairo came hastily and gave the visit a significance it does not really deserve. And if some people insist on seeing a definite political significance that can be considered a sign of future moves by the Palestinian resistance, we say to those people that it is the legitimate Palestinian institutions that define the course of the moves, and not Yasir 'Arafat alone. Yasir 'Arafat is the first to know and respect this fact.

AR-RA'Y Comment

JN231220 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 23 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Significance of Mubarak-'Arafat Meeting," *AR-RA'Y* says: Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and his talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak yesterday were no surprise. Egypt has supported the PLO and its legitimate leadership since the PLO was exposed to liquidation in Beirut last year and in northern Lebanon and Tripoli during the last months of this year. Egypt translated this stand into diplomatic contacts and practices to save the PLO and its leadership and into aid and air and naval protection of the departing Palestinian convoy even before it reached the Egyptian territorial waters and until it reached its destination. Thus, it was natural for the Arab Palestinian leadership to meet with the Arab Egyptian leadership. This intimate meeting aroused Israeli criticism and made its Foreign Ministry spokesman say that this meeting was a strong blow dealt to the peace process. Cairo's reply came strong and firm through President Mubarak himself, who said that Egypt will not relinquish the Palestine cause or work for its sake.

It has become obvious that this meeting has aborted the excuses of those people who seek the continuation of Egypt's isolation and separation from the Arab world. At the same time, this meeting has extended the Palestinian bridge toward Cairo, after Cairo has extended bridges toward the Palestinian revolution and many Arab capitals. This important development must hasten the unity of the Arab ranks, in which Egypt will occupy its position, especially since events have proved that Arab ranks will not be united without Egypt and that Egypt alone cannot practice a real role without the Arabs.

AR-RA'Y continues: In light of this fact, it seems strange to note that Palestinian voices protesting the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting coincide with Israel's protest against the same meeting. If the Israeli stand is designed to deprive the Palestine cause of Egyptian or of any other Arab weight, the other stand does not seem to be understandable and justifiable by pan-Arab and national criteria, because keeping Egypt away from the Palestine cause is not in the interest of the cause, not to mention the fact that this is Israel's hope and objective.

We hope that the Palestinian conscience which supports the PLO's legitimate leadership will win and succeed in protecting this leadership from the premeditated blows from within. The great danger to the Palestinian community is turning the Egyptian-Palestinian meeting into an issue that will be used as a guise to undermine the Palestinian community and sink it in whirlpool of differences, while the meeting was in fact a positive move in harmony with Egypt's stands that have supported the Palestine cause and which were in its interests.

AR-RA'Y concludes: It is certain that the majority of the Palestinians are expected to assume an important role to protect the Palestinian community and cause from the trends aimed against them, including the sway of the minority which has been able to impose its will over Palestinian action in many stages when unanimity was the method to adopt the Palestinian decision. The great and bitter experiences the Palestinian revolution waged will be the shield with which the revolution will protect itself from the attempts to isolate the cause and deprive it of its supporters.

24 Dec Commentary

JN241010 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Sign of a Trend," *AD-DUSTUR* says: The Palestinian arena is currently witnessing heated and prolonged dialogue and discussions on the meeting that took place the day before yesterday between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The supportive reaction of the great majority of personalities in the occupied West Bank and Gaza is currently the most important topic of discussion both inside and outside the occupied territories. This is because this reaction is a true indication of the Palestinians' ideas and trends that are not pressured by this or that Arab capital.

Although it is premature to assess the results of the meeting 'Arafat held while he and his men were on their way from Tripoli to new Arab exile, it is nevertheless obvious that the conditions and timing of the meeting were dictated by many considerations. One of the main considerations was to thank Egypt for its support for the PLO during its siege in Tripoli, especially since 'Arafat had to pass through the Egyptian territory with Egyptian naval escort. This situation dictated that 'Arafat had to express his gratitude.

AD-DUSTUR adds: Despite the fact that the PLO leader said nothing that showed any new stands contrary to the PNC resolutions, the violent reaction of most Palestinian circles in Damascus shows the dangers of stands which may lead to a deep split in the PLO's ranks. This is a declared objective of the Syrian leadership, which waged very brutal battles against 'Arafat in order to achieve this objective.

While we believe that quick judgment must be avoided until all dimensions that dictated the PLO leader's step are clarified, we must recall the Palestinian meetings with some leaders of the Israeli peace movement in the heart of Beirut during the siege last summer. This arouses surprise over some leaders' attack against 'Arafat's meeting with an Arab leader such as President Mubarak, because no other Arab leader adopted stands as good as his country's during the last Palestinian ordeal in Tripoli.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: The PLO and its legitimate and democratic institutions must derive the right lessons and results from the current Arab situation, which has led it to military defeat and retreat. One of the main lessons is that they must maintain their contacts with all Arab capitals and avoid blocs and differences. Otherwise, they will remain dependent on slogans and bargains that will neither liberate the occupied territories nor save the kinfolk from the yoke of Zionist occupation.

Under the headline "Egypt Is Arab in the First Place," *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* says: After returning from Washington, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali expressed his surprise at Israeli anger because Egypt received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. He said that Israel has no right to interfere in this matter. The clear fact is that Egypt under President Mubarak gives priority to its Arab commitments. Despite its commitment to peace with Israel, it condemned the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and inside occupied Palestine and charged the world's countries and international organizations to act against Israel's aggressive policy in Lebanon and occupied Palestine.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B adds: Egypt's deviation from Arab ranks and its signing the separate peace agreement with Israel were a big catastrophe for joint Arab action and its main issue. They also undermined the Arab stand and postion in the world. At the same time, they caused disasters and troubles in Egypt and made many Arab Egyptian sectors discuss the foundation of Egypt's formation and affiliation — to the extent, as is known, that this confusion led to confronting President as-Sadat's policy with force.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B continues: Today — in light of the current Arab divisions, after the experience of wasted years of paralyzed joint Arab action, and while the PLO leader and his soldiers were at sea, departing from the Tripoli siege following the Beirut siege — the PLO leader saw Egypt's hands extended to him and heard Egypt's president announce to the whole world that Egypt has always supported the PLO. Would the PLO leader not shake hands with true Arab hands extended to him?

The Camp David accords and the three presidents who signed them became part of history. The Arabs and the PLO have always condemned the Camp David accords. However, their condemnation does not mean that history has stopped and that the Arab conflict, including the Egyptian conflict against the Zionist onslaught and attempts to control our pan-Arab potentials in this part of the Arab homeland, has ended. The conflict will continue in accordance with the region's changing atmosphere. In fact, the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement has proved that Zionism will never be in harmony with peace and that Zionism's understanding of peace is to impose hegemony over all the Arabs.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B concludes: Israel has not decalred its final boundries; it has the military force that will push it toward more expansion and aggression. Any new expansion will be at the expense of the Arabs. The occupation of any Arab territory will be followed by other steps in which Israel will seize Arab sovereignty — in the political, economic, and cultural spheres. In this era, the conflict will be renewed and its methods will be diversified. Herein lies the need to mobilize all Arab potentials, the foremost of which are Egypt's.

Under the headline "Toward Organized Arab Action," *AR-RA'Y* says: The convoluted Israeli reaction continues to protest against the meeting and talks that President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat held on Thursday to the extent that Yitszhaq Shamir described this development as an evil omen. Kamal Hasan 'Ali, [Egyptian] deputy prime minister and foreign minister, replied by saying that Israel must not interefere in this matter.

It is obvious that Israel is worried that the path has been paved for the return of Arab-Egyptian cohesion, because this cohesion will strengthen Arab action in the region and the world. It seems that the 'Arafat- Mubarak meeting coinciding with the statement the Egyptian Council of Ministers issued asserting the importance and need to strengthen Jordanian-Palestinian cohesion has aroused the ire of Israeli officials because they believe that any Arab cohesion — especially Jordanian-Palestinian cohesion — will stgrengthen the Palestine cause and push it to the first rank of priorities in the international arena. This is in addition to the positive repercussions from the steadfast kinfolk in the occupied territories.

AR-RA'Y continues: Shamir saw the evil omen that he mentioned in light of this outcome because Israel has always depended on the Arabs' divisions and has made it a basic element of its force and superiority. It is natural that Israel should consider any development that helps to strengthen Arab ranks as an evil omen, especially after its calculation that Egypt's isolation from the Arabs would be permanent has not proven true. Israel now sees that the Egyptian, Palestinian, and Arab bridges are being extended in order to rebuild the Arab ranks.

It goes without saying that the time factor plays an important role in shaping events that occur in our region, especially events related to the future of the Palestine cause. Thus, the Arabs must use this important factor in the interest of their cause by hastening to rebuild the Arab ranks so that extending bridges will not simply be indications without content.

AR-RA'Y concludes: The developments that have accompanied the Arab cause prove that it has faced catastrophes during the absence of organized Arab ranks and that this has led to the Palestinian fighters' departure from Tripoli. Since moves to build organized Arab ranks have begun, efforts must be intensified so that organized Arab action and the Arab march will progress toward regaining the usurped rights and establishing just and comprehensive peace in the region.

AR-RA'Y Urges U.S. Acceptance of Fes Plan

JN250730 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Discussion of U.S. Predictions," *AR-RA'Y* says: At his weekly news conference in the White House Friday, President Reagan discussed what he predicts will happen after the meeting and talks that President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat held. These predictions cannot be accepted because they are based on views of events that are contrary to the facts. Reagan's idea that the meeting opened doors for Arab parties to join the so-called peace talks on the basis of his plan is strange for the following reasons:

First, no talks of any kind related to the Palestine cause exist since the essential contradiction between Egyptian and Israeli understanding of self-determination in the West Bank and Gaza has been disclosed. This contradiction emerged because Israel rejected the fact that self-determination includes both Palestinian territory and people. Thus, the so-called self-determination talks broke up years ago, and these talks no longer exist. Hence, it would be difficult for anyone to believe that Arab parties would join talks that do not exist.

Second, Israel rejected President Reagan's plan the moment it was declared. The U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance then strengthened the conviction that the Reagan initiative is more of a tactical process than a peace plan. Thus, in light of these two factors, the efficacy and seriousness of the initiative are doubtful.

Third, there are contraditions between what the U.S. Administration called for through its initiative and the same administration's practices. While the U.S. plan calls on Israel to stop its settlements, the U.S. Administration has not stopped aid to Israel that is being used to intensify the settlement process. Thus, in light of the U.S. practices, the plan is surrounded by a big question mark. Which peace will be attained while Israel is devouring Palestinian territory with U.S. help?

AR-RA'Y concludes: In light of this outcome, it has become clear that the predictions Reagan talked about after Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat's] visit to Cairo are illogical. The only real opportunity to establish peace in the region is represented by the peace plan the Fes Arab summit adopted. This means that if the United States is sincere about playing a constructive role, it has to accept the Arab plan and make Israel accept it. Both must agree to participate in an international conference that includes all parties concerned in the Palestine cause, including the PLO and the USSR, in order to establish comprehensive and just peace in the region.

Egyptian Minister on Trade Talks, Other Topics

JN250923 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Dec 83 p 20

[Sidqi Hasan dispatch]

[Text] Amman — *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* — Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id, Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade, has praised the results of his visit to Jordan and his meetings with Jordanian officials. He said that a protocol will be signed today to organize economic and trade cooperation between Jordan and Egypt.

The Egyptian minister added that the Egyptian side was concerned with positively responding to all the demands the Jordanian side presented during the meetings that resulted in the protocol. He described the protocol as a step toward more advanced relations than existed before the boycott resolutions were adopted.

Dr as-Sa'id noted that the agreement reflects the results of production developmenTs in Jordan and Egypt and asserts the joint desire to continue the growth of trade exchange.

Regarding the assessment of the Jordanian economy, Dr as-Sa'id said that the Jordanian economy has witnessed tangible development, not only in industry and agriculture but also in the spheres of housing, roads, and public utilities, especially electrical energy.

Regarding the future of economic relations between the two countries, Dr as-Sa'id said that he has invited Walid 'Asfur, minister of trade and industry, to visit Egypt. He expressed hope that this visit will take place as soon as possible.

Dr as-Sa'id noted that the agreement will open big opportunities for businessmen and companies in both countries to increase cooperation in various trade and economic spheres.

Regarding the freezing of economic relations between Egypt and Israel, Dr as-Sa'id said that Israel does not have any preferential place in Egyptian trade. He noted that Israel's repressive policy — especially its aggression against Lebanon, the Sabra and Shatila massacres, its stand on Tabah, and its settlement policy — caused official and popular Egyptian reaction to the trade and economic dealings with Israel.

Regarding Egyptian-Arab economic relations, Dr as-Sa'id said that these relations are continuously improving. He added that he has visited some Arab countries, including Iraq, to strengthen these relations. He described Egyptian relations with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries as normal and said that there are no restrictions on the trade exchange between Egypt and the Gulf countries.

Regarding 'Arafat's visit to Egypt, Dr as-Sa'id said that his country's stand on the PLO is clear. Egypt received Yasir 'Arafat as the symbol of the Palestinian revolution. He also said that receiving 'Arafat is an expression of Egypt's concern about the Palestine cause and Egypt's interest in finding a solution to it. He described 'Arafat as a moderate leader who seeks a solution to the Palestine cause by taking into consideration the region's objective and realistic circumstances.

Press Conference, Departure

JN251919 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id, Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade, has stressed that Egypt is concerned about supporting and strengthening the legitimate Palestinian leadership. The decisions that Egypt makes in this regard are within the framework of these facts and the declared Egyptian stands.

Regarding the frozen trade relations between Egypt and Israel, Dr as-Sa'id, who was speaking at a press conference in Amman today, said: Egypt is committed to the Arab issues. Regarding its policy and dealings with the others, Egypt proceeds from its affiliation with the issues of its nation. He pointed out that Israel's hostile policies in Lebanon, the Sabra and Shatila massacres, the settlement policy, and Israel's stand toward the issue of Egyptian Tabah reflected negatively on the trade relations with Israel. He said that Egypt rejects these policies.

Regarding the Arab-Egyptian relations, Dr as-Sa'id said: Egypt spares no effort to restore its trade and economic relations with all the Arab states in the common interest of the Arabs. He added: The trade and economic relations between Egypt and most of the Arab states are normal. He said that Egypt will spare no effort to support and bolster these relations. He added that his visit to Jordan and his meetings with the Jordanian officials have achieved positive results that will deepen and promote the trade and economic relations between the two countries.

At the Ministry of Trade and Industry today, the trade and economic protocol signed stated that the national products exchanged between the two countries will be exempted from customs and other taxes and that exchanged goods will be treated as national products. The protocol also mentions the encouragement of and support for trade centers in both countries and the establishment of permanent and temporary exhibitions to specify the commodities to be exchanged. The two sides agreed to tackle the issues of transportation and aviation and to settle problems related to them. They also agreed that the joint Egyptian-Jordanian committee will hold an annual meeting to follow up implementation of the protocol.

On the Jordanian side, the protocol was signed by Walid 'Asfur, minister of trade and industry, and on the Egyptian side by Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id, minister of economy and foreign trade.

Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id left Amman this afternoon following a 6-day official visit to Jordan. During this visit, he met with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent; Prime Minister Mudar Badran; and a number of Jordanian officials. He was seen off at Queen 'Alia International Airport by the minister of trade and industry, the under secretary of the ministry, and the chief of the Egyptian interests section in Amman.

Crown Prince Accepts Invitation to Egypt

GF260700 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0650 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Doha, 26 Dec (WAKH) — Press reports indicated here today that Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id, Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade, who concluded an official visit to the Jordanian capital yesterday, invited Jordanian Crown Prince Hassan to visit Cairo. In a statement published in the Qatari newspaper *AL-'ARAB* today, the Egyptian minister noted that he accepted the invitation and that the date of the visit will be set later.

UK's Heseltine Arrives for 1-Day Visit

Meets Khuri

NC231256 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] British Secretary of State for Defense Heseltine arrived in Beirut this morning to inspect the British contingent of the Multinational Force. He also visited the British Embassy in Beirut.

At 1100 today, Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri received Heseltine, with whom he reviewed Lebanese-British cooperation within the framework of the Multinational Force. After the meeting, Minister Khuri said:

[Begin recording] The meeting with the British secretary of state for defense was an occasion to convey to the friendly minister best Christmas wishes and hoping that he would convey my personal greetings to the British soldiers asigned to the Multinational Force in Lebanon.

On this occasion I hope Lebanon can restore its health and stability so that all our friends and peace-loving people can spend the holidays among members of their families and friends. I affirmed to the British minister the extent of our confidence in the British Government and in the British soldiers in our country. This had been conveyed by His Excellency President al-Jumayyil during his recent visit to London. What is important is not the number of soldiers but the goals they are seeking, which goes beyond the Lebanese framework to a framework of world peace. Lebanon's issue is not only that of a homeland and people but a struggle between war and peace, good and evil, and the man who seeks to safeguard his freedom and dignity and those forces practicing oppression, terrorism, and autocracy.

As I told the British minister, I would regard the collapse of Lebanon, God forbid, as the collapse of the world peace forces and of the principles of freedom and justice, and the victory of the forces of evil and hatred in a move toward the domination of terrorism over the world. Hence, we are relying on our friends not as a burden on them but as partners in the defense of the principles in which we believe. Agreement has been complete on these principles, which the british minister has stressed. The minister represents a friendly country which has a glorious history in the defense of freedom and peace. [end recording]

British minister Michael Heseltine will leave Beirut this afternoon for the British military base in Cyprus.

Addresses British Contingent

LD231336 London Press Association in English 1255 GMT 23 Dec 83

[By Paul Wilkinson, PA staff reporter]

[Excerpts] Britain's soldiers in the Lebanon had a morale-boosting Christmas visit from Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine today. During a surprise one-day trip, Mr Heseltine spent an hour at the troops base at Hadath in the southern suburbs of Beirut, then went on to meet Lebanese Government officials and staff at the British Embassy.

During the visit, Mr Heseltine said that the British contingent would stay in the Lebanon until its task was complete. "We do not even want to talk about pulling out," he added.

The government felt the force was helping "to create an atmosphere of confidence so that the various warring groups can get down to talking to one another".

Standing on the adjoining roof of a disused sewage works — an area the British troops call "the patio", Mr Heseltine praised the work of the force in what he said was a very dangerous role. "Peace prospects are more likely if there is some measure of confidence building, and that is what we are trying to do". "What happens in Lebanon could affect us all. This is a very dangerous part of the world. What happens here affects the whole of the Middle East, and this in turn could potentially threaten the peace of the world".

Later, he met Lebanese Defence Minister 'Isam Kuri. They discussed the role of the British contingent, British-Lebanese relations, and Britain's support for Lebanon's recovery from the latest crisis.

Mr Heseltine said the safety of the British contingent wasa matter of continuing concern but he hoped there would never be British casualties because the troops had built a good relationship with local people. He recalled that when shells fell close to the British base recently he telephoned Druze leader Walid Junblatt and got assurances that the firing would cease. It did.

Mr Heseltine said: "We will do whatever is necessary for the safety of our troops."

The British contingent is the only one that has suffered no casualties since the four-nation force arrived in September, 1982. More than 250 men of the 1,800-strong American contingent have been killed. The French have lost 82 and the Italians one.

French Defense Minister Arrives on 'Urgent Mission'

NC231511 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Radio correspondent dispatch from Beirut Airport — live]

[Text] A short while ago, French Defense Minister Charles Hernu arrived in Beirut heading a French military delegation to inspect the French contingent and convey a message to Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil from his French counterpart Francois Mitterrand.

The French minister will spend Christmas eve amid the officers and soldiers of the French contingent in Beirut. Minister Hernu was received at the airport by French Ambassador in Lebanon Bernard Henri Boyer; Brigadier General Zuhayr as-Sammir, Army commander of the Beirut military area; Colonel Emil Lahud, head of the Military Room at the Defense Ministry, who deputized for Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri; George Qasu, Foreign Ministry director assistant for protocol; and airport security officers.

At the airport, Minister Hernu said: I came here with State Secretary for Defense (Gatelle) and French Chief of Staff General (Lakaz). We have come on an urgent mission at the request of the French president and head of staff to examine on the ground the prospects for implementing the arrangements to protect our forces. We will contact General Francois (Canne), commander of the French contingent operating within the Multinational Force in Beirut, and with the officers and soldiers of this contingent — with whom we will spend Christmas eve.

The French minister added: During this visit, we will have several meetings with the Lebanese authorities. I repeat: This visit comes as a response to urgent military needs and according to the instructions of French President Francois Mitterrand.

Minister Hernu concluded by noting that he will immediately proceed to meet His Excellency President Amin al-Jumayyil to hand him a message from French President Francois Mitterrand.

Meets With Al-Jumayyil

NC231858 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil received French Defense Minister Charles Hernu and the French Ambassador to Lebanon this evening.

Meanwhile, a meeting is now being held at the Defense Ministry between Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri; Army Commander General Ibrahim Tannus; and French Defense Minister Charles Hernu. They are discussing the latest security developments, particularly the explosion which occured at French headquarters near Dushaylah Stadium.

Meets Khuri

NC232341 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] The French defense minister, who arrived suddenly in Beirut yesterday [23 December] afternoon, went to the presidential palace where he delivered a message from French President Francois Mitterrand to President al-Jumayyil.

Defense Minister 'Isam al-Khuri and Minister Hernu met in the evening, and in a meeting which was also attended by Army Commander General Ibrahim Tannus; Staff Colonel 'Abbas Hamdan, deputy chief of staff for operations; Jean Gatel, secretary of state at the French Defense Ministry; and General Lacaze, chief of the French General Staff, the conferees reviewed the conditions in Lebanon and the area, the role of the French contingent within the Multinational Force, and Lebanese-French relations, particularly military relations.

Following the meeting, Minister Khuri said: The French minister explained the reasons and motives of the visit, the most important being to participate with the French soldiers in celebrating Christmas eve and to express the French people's unity with their soldiers who are carrying out a mission of peace in Lebanon, as well as to express his appreciation for their efforts and sacrifices. Moreover, this visit, which is a followup of a previous visit, is to emphasize the benefit of the presence of these forces in Lebanon and its continuation here until its goals are achieved.

Minister Khuri added: The meeting turned into a tour de horizon on all issues of interest to France and Lebanon in the areas of military and security cooperation, particularly the affairs which obstruct the process of establishing and consolidating peace in the greater Beirut area, where the Multinational Force is located, as well as the terrorist actions to which this force is subjected and the motive of which has become known — to pressure the force into abandoning its mission of peace, which is one of the consequences of the international conflict in the area.

The defense minister went on: The French group was briefed on the efforts exerted to rebuild the Lebanese Army and the double efforts to speed up the rebuilding process out of a conviction that the Army is the backbone of the state; that there can be no homeland without an army; and that it must become the only power of the legitimacy capable of acting efficiently and justly; and out of the Lebanese regime's and Army Command's firm conviction of our responsibility, before anybody else, to hold the reins of affairs and to establish national security by ourselves and not through friendly forces.

Minister Khuri also said: The French group was also briefed on the political developments and efforts exerted at home to cement the unity of ranks and realize a quasi-unanimity in order that we may further speed up the process of saving the homeland and realizing its independence and sovereignty after the evacuation of the foreign forces. An identity of views was noted on the need for more coordination and cooperation between the Lebanese and French military authorities within the framework of what facilitates the task of the Multinational Force and provides it with greater effectiveness and protection, and also within the framework of the promotion of development in qualifying and training the Lebanese Army and supplying it with the equipment and machinery it needs, as well as speeding up the process of handing over the weapons which the French Government has agreed to sell the Lebanese Government.

Minister Khuri assured the French minister and his team that Lebanon — government and people — appreciate the sacrifices which France is making to help Lebanon establish peace. He said this moral link primarily generates from a firm conviction which the French officials expressed in declaring the justness of the Lebanese cause and in supporting the legitimate authority. It also generates from France's historical commitment to defend usurped rights as well as from its role and stand on the questions of the area, which it cannot abandon in line with its openness and relations with more than one state in the area.

Minister Hernu is scheduled to spend the Christmas holiday with the French officers and men.

Activities Reported

LD241344 Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] To cheer up the American soldiers in Beirut on New Year's Eve, the U.S. Government has rushed in comedian Bob Hope and a whole flock of pretty girls, more or less clothed. Meanwhile, French soldiers are being visited by Charles Hernu. The Defense Minister's journey is shrouded in secrecy for security reasons. Charles Hernu unexpectedly arrived in Beirut yesterday. He was received by President Amin al-Jumayyil, and had discussions yesterday evening with Lebanese Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri. Mr Hernu is accompanied by Secretary of State for Defense Jean Gatel and General Lacaze, chief of the Army General Staff. More details now from AFP's (Shiela Kouri) in Beirut:

Charles Hernu spent the morning aboard the aircraft carrier Clemenceau. Details of his itinerary are not known, again for obvious security reasons, but we know from unofficial sources that he will spend Christmas eve with the paratroops and that he is supposed to leave for Paris tomorrow morning. Italian President Sandro Pertini's statement yesterday that he favors withdrawing the Italian contingent from the Multinational Force has not greatly impressed Charles Hernu, who limited himself to the remark that in any case departure could not take place [words indistinct] and that this did not depend merely on the president's wish alone.

Charles Hernu had several working meetings with General Francois Cann, commander of the French contingent. Yesterday evening, following a meeting with Francois Cann, President Amin al-Jumayyil, and 'Isam Khuri, his Lebanese counterpart, he went to join the paratroops based at Sabra and Shatila. It goes without saying that Mr Hernu's visit to Beirut will boost the morale of the French paratroopers, who for some time have been the target of attacks of all kinds. However, it does not guard them against terrorism, and effective measures have not yet been found to shelter the French soldiers from such attacks.

Gatel Inspects French UN Forces

NC241432 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Jean Gatel, secretary of state at the French Defense Ministry, today went to the south to inspect the French soldiers with the UN emergency force in Lebanon. It is known that Gatel is accompanying French Defense Minister Charles Hernu who is on a working visit to Beirut.

Hernu Departs

NC250920 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] French Defense Minister Charles Hernu left Beirut at 0930 this morning for Paris. He flew by helicopter from As-Sanawbar Palace to Beirut International Airport where he then left for Paris. Before leaving, Hernu said that he spent Christmas with the French soldiers in Lebanon and that he will spend the new year with his country's soldiers in Chad.

VOL Says Libyan Envoy To Arrive in Lebanon

NC271135 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Diplomatic sources have told the Voice of Lebanon that a special envoy of the Libyan president will arrive in Beirut in the next 2 days with a message from Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi to President Amin al-Jumayyil. The message falls within the continuous contacts between the two countries.

Al-Jumayyil Telephones Syrian President al-Asad

NC241325 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] During his meeting with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan this afternoon, President Amin al-Jumayyil telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to be reassured about the health of the latter following the indisposition he suffered some time ago.

A friendly discussion ensued between Presidents al-Jumayyil and al-Asad, who referred to their anticipated meeting following the Syrian president's convalescene. The two presidents agreed to hold this meeting as soon as possible to discuss Lebanese-Syrian relations in light of current developments.

Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan also spoke to the Syrian president to be reassured about his health. He wished the president an early recovery.

Last night, President al-Jumayyil contacted Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. They reviewed the current situation in light of current developments. During this contact, the president expressed a desire to speak to the Syrian president to be reassured about his health and congratulate him on his well-being. Hence, today's contacts between Presidents al-Jumayyil and al-Asad.

Khaddam Contacts Al-Jumayyil on Security Issues

NC261749 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1701 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] We have just received a report that President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil today received a telephone call from Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The discussion dealt with the current situation, particularly the security situation which deteriorated before noon today and yesterday in Beirut's southern suburb. They also talked on the security plan which Colonel Simon Qassis, director of military intelligence, and Colonel Jean Nasif, Army representative in the Security Arrangements Committee, discussed and studied in the meetings held in Damascus. There was agreement on the need for the cooperation of all parties to consolidate the cease-fire to prevent further bloodshed and faciliate the implementation of the security plan.

AL-JAZIRAH Reports Saudi Security Plan for Lebanon

GF262018 Doha QNA in Arabic 1930 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Riyadh, 26 Dec (QNA) — The Saudi daily *AL-JAZIRAH* in today's issue published the draft of a Saudi cease-fire plan for Lebanon and for ending the constant bloodshed there. The daily stated that the plan, which was not opposed by any of the Lebanese warring sides, aims at establishing a security plan encompassing the southern region from which Israel might withdraw and also to contain any sectarian clashes similar to those which took place in the mountains following the Israeli withdrawal. The plan also includes the southern suburb of the mountains, the Kharub region to the south, and western Al-Biqa' to guarantee the withdrawal of the Lebanese Phalangist forces and close down their military camps in Hadath, Kafr Shima, and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, and to remove armed displays in the district bordering the southern suburb in exchange for similar adherence by the Amal Movement.

The Saudi plan comprises the following points:

1. Separating the forces of the warring Lebanese factions.

2. Consolidating and finalizing the cease-fire.

3. Ending attacks on the airport and declaring it a neutral area by all parties.

4. Considering the security committee the proper framework to discuss and deal with all security problems.

5. Achieving disengagement in the southern suburb and mountains.

6. Achieving the withdrawal of the Phalangist forces from the south and mountains and from locations in the western Al-Biqa' and the area bordering the southern suburb, and their return to Qada Kisrwan to a distance of approximately 700 meters inside the suburb.

7. Providing the Internal Security Forces with the responsibility of maintaining peace and guaranteeing the reopening of all roads.

8. After signing the agreement, the legal Lebanese authorities will hold the necessary contacts with the Italian and Greek Governments to send observers in all areas of the suburb and mountains without exception to supervise and observe the cease-fire. The Saudi daily expects the signing of this plan within the next 48 hours.

Al-Jumayyil Chairs Liaison Committee Meeting

NC271342 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Report by radio correspondent Joe Sa'adah from the Presidential Palace — live]

[Text] At noon today, President Amin al-Jumayyil chaired the meeting of the Higher Liaison Committee at the Presidential Palace. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan; the Italian ambassador; the U.S., French and British charges d'affaires; the commanders of the Multinational Force; and the Lebanese officers' team. At the outset of the meeting, Al-Jumayyil conveyed Christmas greetings to the Multinational Force commanders and through them to the personnel of their units and their peoples. His excellency expressed his wish that peace will overwhelm Lebanon and the world.

The assistant director of Army intelligence then gave a briefing regarding the causes of the worsening security situation in the areas of Sabra and Shatila and the airport road, which separates Beirut and its southern suburb.

This was followed by a briefing by the deputy chief of staff for operations regarding the military situation, and the course of battles and their results. He explained that the Army has moved to fill in the vacuum which was generated by the redeployment of the French unit personnel.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan touched on the importance of security control in Beirut, which houses the government premises and represents a starting point toward stretching the state's supremacy over all Lebanon.

The Multinational Force commanders praised the Lebanese Army's efforts and effeciency during the operations, which fall within its comprehensive plan to fill in every security vacuum and shoulder its natural responsibility for preserving the homeland's sovereignty.

Al-Jumayyil: MNF Defending Lebanon, Free World

NC232251 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] What the Multinational Force is defending in Lebanon is not the security of Lebanon alone, but also itself. Lebanon is the beginning — it is the forward fortress in the security of Europe and the free world. Let us not forget that the loss of Lebanon cannot but affect some neighboring countries.

This is what President Amin al-Jumayyil said last night in an interview with the first channel of French Television — TFR.

The president of the Republic said: Lebanon is a message and a mission. This message and mission are not unconnected with what France believes in. Together we are defending the same values. If French soldiers are dying in Lebanon, they are also dying for the sake of France. What France is defending in Lebanon is not mere square kilometers on which some mission citizens reside; it is defending more than this. I regret to say that Lebanon has become the starting point for several incidents such as the (Marbert) or the (Copernic) operations and many other operations in Europe, for example. I am sorry to say this, but it is the regrettable fact: Lebanon has become the starting point for these terroristic operations.

The president added: What the Multinational Force is defending in Lebanon is not the security of Lebanon alone, but also itself. Lebanon is the beginning — it is the forward fortress in the security of Europe and the free world. Let us not forget that the loss of Lebanon cannot but affect some neighboring states, and you know the importance of these states to the free world as sourcesof energy. You also know their importance in investments and general benefits. This is what the Multinational Force is defending.

Junblatt Raps Al-Jumayyil Remarks

JN252202 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2030 GMT 25 Dec 83

[From "Panorama" program]

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], today criticized the statement made by Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil. In a statement to French Television, the Lebanese President announced that Lebanon constitutes an advanced post for the security of Europe and free world. Walid Junblatt, who made his statement in Damascus, considered President al-Jumayyil's statement as conflicting with what was agreed on at the National Dialogue in Geneva with regard to Lebanon's Arabism. Junblatt said he is increasingly doubtful whether the dialogue with President al-Jumayyil and his government will be worthwhile. Junblatt said: Lebanon must be Arab and democratic in which justice and equality prevail, not the Lebanon defined by President al-Jumayyil. Junblatt added: A Western Lebanon would mean a Lebanon subject to the authority of a single party.

VOL on Iranian Activity in Beirut, Ba'labakk

NC240956 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 24 dec 83

[Text] According to information available to the Voice of Lebanon, Husayn Musawi's gunmen and Iranian revolutionary guards have begun to appear in the southern suburb [of Beirut] with the weapons and vehicles they seized from the Lebanese Army barracks in Ba'labakk.

In the Al-Ghubayri area opposite the airport bridge, where a number of pro-Khomeyni shaykhs and the Iranian charge d'affaires have taken refuge, an armored personnel carrier and a 106-mm gun taken from the Army have been seen, together with armed elements conducting thorough searches in the Imam al-Mahdi Mosque and Mar Mikhayil church areas.

Other information says that Iranian diplomatic cars have begun to appear in the Ba'labakk area and that Iranian diplomats are looking for a building which they will use to hopuse an Iranian embassy in the Ba'labakk area.

RFL Says Iranian Diplomats' Immunity Waived

NC231814 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] The Lebanese Government in Beirut is continuing its contacts with some neutral states to assign one of them the responsibility of looking after Lebanese interests in Tehran and Tripoli in the Arab Maghreb. In the meantime, the Algerian Government has decided to take charge of the Iranian and Libyan interests in Beirut following the severance of diplomatic relations with Iran and the freezing of relations with Libya.

The Lebanese authorities today lifted the diplomatic immunity granted the Iranian diplomats after the Shi'ite 'ulema group prevented their deportation. The Algerian flag was raised above the Iranian Embassy in Beirut.

Lebanese Muslims Prevent Departure

GF231500 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] The oppressed Islamic masses and struggling clergymen in Lebanon prevented the departure of the Iranian diplomats from Beirut yesterday as a protest to the Lebanese regime's decision to sever diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this regard, Zuhayr (Kanz), one of the Muslim clergyman in Lebanon, affirmed that the Lebanese Muslims will prevent the departure of the Iranian diplomats from Beirut, as long as the Lebanese regime does not reconsider its decision.

As a protest to this decision, a large group of Lebanese Muslims occupied the Mosque of Imam Mhadi, may God bless his soul, located in (Al-Ghubayri) in southern Beirut. The group shouted:-
"God is great and there is no God but God," and the slogan "My God, my God, save Imam Khomeyni until the appearance of Mahdi," as a protest to the Lebanese regime's decision.

On this occasion, ceremonies were held outside Imam Mahdi Mosque, during which the speakers denounced the Lebanese regime's decision to sever its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and warned the it that the Lebanese Muslims and their revolutionary clergymen will escalate their struggle against Amn al-Jumayyil's regime if it does not reconsider its decision within 1 month. During these ceremonies, a message was read that was sent to Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic revolution, by a group of Muslim revolutionaries who were recently released from Ansar detention camp, and who praised the Imam's leadership.

Franjiyah Meets With U.S. Ambassador

NC231810 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] [Former] President Sulayman Franjiyah met with U.S. Ambassador to Beirut Reginald Bartholomew at noon today in Al-Batrun. The meeting took place during a luncheon at the residence of George Yusuf (Paul) and was attended by Franjiyah's son Robert, and deputy 'Abdallah ar-Rafi'i. During the meeting, they discussed several Lebanese and Middle East issues.

Meets Security Director

NC241430 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Brigadier General 'Uthman 'Uthman, acting director general of the Internal Security Forces, returned to Beirut this afternoon after visiting the northern area and inspecting the Internal Security Forces' positions and the security conditions in Tripoli. Prior to his return to Beirut, 'Uthman visited former President Sulayman Franjiyah in Zgharta and discussed with him the general conditions in the country. 'Uthman had met earlier with Former Prime Minister Rashid Karami for the same purpose.

Meets Salim

NC251220 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Dr Elie Salim, minister of foreign and expatriates affairs, arrived today in Zgharta where he immediately met with former President Sulayman Franjiyah.

Druze Bureau Presents Note to U.S. Embassy

NC231305 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] The Permanent Bureau of Druze Institutions this morning held a news conference at the Druze Community House. The news conference was attended by several members of the bureau and representatives of organizations and groups and popular delegations representing the sons of the Al-Kharrub region and the sons of Tripoli. The news conference was also attended by representatives of members of the Druze community staging a sit-in strike at the Community House.

Dr Sami 'Abd al-Baqi delivered a statement on behalf of the Permanent Bureau of Druze Institutions, in which he expressed the bureau's protest against the shelling of the mountain villages. He called for an end to the shelling and foreign interference in the Lebanese issue.

The news conference was preceeded by a visit a delegation of the bureau made to the U.S. Embassy where it presented a note addressed to President Reagan for the same purpose.

Security Arrangements Committee Meets 23 Dec

NC231553 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] The Security Arrangements Committee convened this afternoon for the first time in 20 days. This is considered a positive sign because it comes amid other indications, including the release of kidnapped people and the consideration of some security arrangements which can consolidate the relaxation. It is known that the committee does not meet except when all parties are attending.

Al-Murabitun Reviews Recent Developments

NC250730 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] The Higher Central Political Committee of the independent Nasirite Movement-Al-Murabitun has held a meeting at which it reviewed the situation and political, security, and social developments. The committee issued a statement in which it noted that the military land and sea blockade of Beirut represents a calculated blockade of the capital, which might destroy its resources at various levels.

The committee also noted the steadfastness in the south and said that while the Zionist plan provided the release of detainees from the Ansar camp it maintained a spiritual detention camp greater than Ansar that includes all the citizens in the south.

At the Arab and Palestinian level, the committee believes that the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting constitutes the beginning of a most serious deviationist phase along the Camp David process within the framework of the Reagan plan. The committee also noted Lebanon's severance of relations with two Islamic Arab countries while its territory is still under occupation. The committee believes that it is necessary to reconsider this decision if there are sincere and true inclinations for rebuilding a free and independent homeland and for ending the occupation.

Recent Reagan Statements, U.S. Moves Viewed

JN241504 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1225 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, U.S. President Ronald Reagan resumed talk about Lebanon and the region in the tone of someone who has a right to trusteeship and protection, or someone who has a right to give orders. He welcomes Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with Husni Mubarak and considers it an encouraging beginning to resume talks regarding joining King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat to the Camp David course through entering negotiations on the Reagan plan which was announced on 1 September 1982.

Reagan does not content himself with this, but says that it is possible to enter the negotiations regarding the liquidation of the Palestinian question without achieving a settlement in Lebanon. As a head of state, Reagan has the right to express his administration's policy in any form he likes, but others also have the right to interpret and understand his statements in accordance with their adherence to their rights, dignity, safety, and security.

Without discussing 'Arafat's visit with Husni Mubarak, its violation of the obligatory Palestinian resolutions, and the PLO's norms and conventions, the exposure of cards, and the announcement of affiliations and commitments, we must remember that the proposals that Reagan made in September 1982 have deliberately ignored two basic principles regarding any just peace in the Middle East — we mean the recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's national rights, including their right to self-determination, the establishment of their national state on their land, and their right to repatriation, and the principle of complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories. The Reagan proposals ignore these two principles that stem from the UN Charter and the resolutions of its organs, especially the UN Security Council, and ignoring these principles means that through President Reagan's proposals, the United States seeks to impose the conditions of the Israeli-U.S. settlement on the Arabs — these conditions which contradict pan-Arab interests, justice, the UN resolutions, and peace interests in the region. When President Reagan bypasses the Lebanese situation and the Israeli occupation of Lebanon, with a U.S. blessing, to invite King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat to the negotiating table in order to accept the Israeli-U.S. conditions, he reveals the invisible objective that was behind the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the relationship of this invasion with the entire U.S. process in the region — a process that aims to impose full U.S. control over the region and its oil wealth, and to allow Israel to impose its military hegemony over the region.

The immediate attempt by the U.S. Administration to link the Lebanese situation with the region's crisis and to separate the Lebanese crisis from the Middle East crisis, and its attempts to concentrate on the necessity to deal with the Lebanese situation — and then only to settle the region's crisis while ignoring the Israeli invasion and occupation of Lebanon — make clear to the public in Lebanon and the region the fact that the United States is neither interested in ending the Israeli occupation of Lebanon nor ending the Israeli usurpation of the Arab rights and territory. It also means that the United States is only interested in two matters: first, to close the region in the interest of the United States, and second, to depend on Israel as an agent, partner, and a tool in the region.

In light of this firm U.S. stand, there has always been a contradiction between pan-Arab interests and U.S. objectives. This contradiction has been continuing until now. What the United States could not achieve through the Israeli wars and the agent Arab politicans and rulers such as Nur as-Sa'id and Anwar as-Sadat, it will not be able to achieve either through direct military interference in Lebanon or through rulers and politicans who have detached themselves from their people and followed the course of Ngo Dihn Diem, Lon Nol, Somoza, and Batista.

The Arabs who do not call for more than a recognition of theirrights, respect for their sovereignty over their land, peace, security, and equality, are ready to defend their rights, territory, and independence just as the Vietnamese people and all the other peoples who achieved victory over colonialism, including Amercian colonialism.

Foreign Ministry Source on Jackson Visit

GF261932 Doha QNA in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Damascus, 26 Dec (QNA) — It was learned from an official source at the Syrian Foreign Ministry today that Senator [title as received] Jesse Jackson, the leader of the colored people in the United States, will arrive in Damascus at the end of this week on a 3-day official visit to Syria at the invitation of the Syrian Government.

Diplomatic sources here noted that the invitation to Senator Jackson by the Syrian Government has great political significance since Jackson is one of those who opposes to the presence of Marines in Lebanon as well as being one who sympathizes with the Arab cause.

It was also learned that the senator will meet during his visit with the Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and will hold talks with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, on the development of the situation in Lebanon and the release of the U.S. hostage pilot Colonel [title as received] Goodman and will visit the hostage pilot who is in Damascus.

Al-Jumayyil, Al-Wazzan Telephone Al-Asad

JN241947 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] At 1400 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call from Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil inquiring about his health and congratulating him on his recovery. President al-Asad thanked him for his sentiments and congratulations on his recovery. During the call, they discussed issues of common interest to the Syrian and Lebanese sides and agreed to resume contacts until a meeting takes place in the near future.

President al-Asad also received a telephone call from Lebanese Prime minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, who was also present during the telephone call between Al-Asad and the Lebanese president.

Al-Wazzan conveyed to President al-Asad congratulations on his recovery and wishes of continued good health. President al-Asad thanked him for his sentiments and congratulations.

President Asad Interviewed on Health, Policy

JN242053 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text of interview given by President Hafiz al-Asad to Michel Colomes, chief editor of the French weekly *LE POINT*, and Mrs Mireille Duteil, its Middle East affairs editor, and published on 24 December 1983; date and place not specified — read by announcer]

[Text] At the beginning of the interview, Mr Colomes said he was pleased to have the chance to obtain the first press interview with the president after his recovery from his illness. He also stressed the importance of the interview. Mr Colomes then said that he wanted to inquire about the president's health.

The president thanked him and welcomed him and his colleague, especially since this was the first meeting with representatives of *LE POINT. The president added: Praise be to God, my health* now is good; first, because the doctors say so; and second, because I personally feel well.

The president said: I experienced several days of fatigue which, as it has transpired, were the result of continuous hard work. The doctors advised me to take a rest anywhere outside the city. Although there are many beauftiful places around Damascus, I chose a place where I will be outside and yet inside Damascus at the same time; it is the place where we are meeting now. I have not completely abandoned work, but only reduced it slightly. I am now doing daily exercises which are compatible with my age. I still have the vigor of youth and participate in the kind of sports which I did when I was young. It is most likely that I will return to regular work at the beginning of next month in accordance with the program set by the doctors. As I said, I have not, in practice, stopped working. I run many of affairs through telephone calls. Currently, I am in continuous contact with the senior officials in the party and the government. I used to meet with them more than once every week before I was admitted to the hospital, and I also met with them after I was admitted to the hospital. Perhaps, the reason for my meeting with them in the hospital was due to the rumors that I had formed a committee and empowered it with the affairs of state. But those were just rumors. In normal circumstances, I used to meet with them twice or more weekly since they constituted the leaderships in the party and the government. What I would like to say is that I have not abandoned work throughout this period, whether such work involved contacts with officials, or meetings with them, or the signing of important decrees and laws.

Question: What is the real significance of the many world comments and reactions caused by your illness, and the real meaning of this world concern about Your Excellency?

The President: First, I would like to thank God for the recovery from my illness, as you can see. This illness has called for a period of recuperation. Illness is not an unusual thing in a person's life; it is an ordinary thing in our lives. Every person is succeptible to illness, but through God's care, treatment, and rest he soon recovers.

As for the concern and the many comments and reactions in the world news media, this is due to the notable position enjoyed by Syria and its people, and Syria's role on the regional and international levels. This has been reflected in the concern about the Syrian president. At any rate, I would like to express my gratitude for the ebullient feelings with which the sons of our people have surrounded me; feelings which they expressed in different forms, expressing our mutual love. I also express my gratitude to all the Arab brothers — officials and citizens — and all friends in the world — officials, organizations, and individuals — for their calls and cables inquiring about my health and to express their wishes for my quick recovery.

Question: Do you not feel as all presidents do the burdens and responsibilities of the government, especially under these difficult circumstances?

The President: Government and leadership are a great responsibility and not a privilige at all times and in all places, but leadership might be more difficult in a region such as ours and under circumstances such as ours. I work much, and this an old habit of mine. I did not begin this habit when I became president, but it was with me in all the stages of my life. Work makes me feel tired on the one hand and responsible and happy on the other. Some people say that I give my feelings a suitable chance, but I do not give a suitable chance to physiology. Doctors have not asked me to reduce the hours of work but to regulate them. I promised them to do that.

Question: I understand from your talk that the President is currently following what is happening with full interest as he was doing in the past. My question is that the Syrian, Lebanese, and Saudi foreign ministers recently met in Damascus, and it seems that the objective of their meeting is to study the means to realize success for the Lebanese dialogue conference scheduled to be resumed in Switzerland. What is the President's view on the possibility of overcoming the obstacle of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement in order to realize success for the conference when resumed, and to create a possibility for reaching a solution in Lebanon?

The President: Our view on the Lebanese problem is very clear, and the way to solve it is also clear. We expressed all of this on various occasions. We view the Geneva conference as a positive step toward resolving the Lebanese problem. Since 1976, we have sought a meeting of the warring Lebanese. By this I do not mean that they should meet in Geneva or in any other particular place, but we wanted the Lebanese to meet. Since 1976, and during the most violent stage of the fighting and violence in Lebanon, we have stressed the need to achieve a national accord, which is the only way to fully resolve the Lebanese problem. In this regard, we have exerted great efforts, and some meetings took place, some people cooperated with us, and others refused to cooperate. Sometimes we advanced some steps forward and other times these steps faced setbacks. However, we and Saudi Arabia have recently exerted efforts to assemble the Lebanese again. In fact, the efforts were intensive, especially since some foreign elements have become a party to the issue and made the obstacle much more difficult. We consider what has been agreed upon in Geneva as positive, and we consider that the achievement of direct meetings among the warring parties as also positive.

Question: What is the main obstacle that prevents a Lebanese national reconciliation and, consequently, prevents the achievement of a final solution in Lebanon?

The President: We know that what has been agreed upon in Geneva will lead, if implemented, to a solution. Naturally, what has been agreed upon in Geneva is written down. There are some issues that the conference announced in a clear language, and there are others that the reader can understand. [sentence as heard] What is important is that they agreed that Lebanon's identity is an Arab one. Of course, this is natural. It is difficult for the ordinary Arab citizen to understand such talk very well. He even might wonder as the ordinary French citizen wonders if Michel and (Miray) agree that they are French.

Despite this, this is a political issue that we might understand because it was a subject of discussion by some Lebanese, especially since we believe that the agreement you have asked about is trying to remove the Arab skin from the Lebanese body. This an important point. The second point is that they discussed, according to their own method, the 17 May agreement, and at least there is a feeling that the 17 May agreement will not contribute to the unity of the Lebanese. However, they have agreed on how to deal with the issue. The third point is the domestic problems. This is their issue and they will deal with it. Therefore, the reconciliation conference has principally dealt with three subjects or titles, namely, internal affairs, Lebanese-Arab affairs or Lebanese-Arab relations, and the 17 May agreement, called the Lebanese-Israeli agreement. The solution to these problems will lead to the solution of the Lebanese problem and will make Lebanon stable, independent, and strong in the full meaning of independence and stability.

Question: For historical reasons, France believes that it has a moral commitment to Lebanon. Do you recognize this commitment, and what role do you allow France to play in the Middle East, espicially regarding its relations with Syria?

The President: We know that Lebanon is an Arab country, its citizens and kinfolk are part of the Arab nation. So, the matter depends on the nature of the commitment. If this commitment is among the affairs that were the result of the colonization stage of Lebanon and Syria, then this means that France has also a moral commitment toward Syria. Of course, I am not discussing this matter now, and I do not know why no one has discussed it in France. Of course, this does not mean that the present France is the colonialist France, but I mean that responsibility of France during that stage — if it necessitates a commitment by France toward Lebanon, then it necessitates a commitment toward Syria too. I mean a moral commitment — we have expressed more than once in the past, and now we stress our desire that France have a role in the Middle East. We have also said this to other European officials and we were concerned. I, personally, and other Syrian officials have made many and repeated statments in this regard. Of course, we want a French role or a French-European role; otherwise it will lose its French and European identity.

Question: Mr President, do you believe the French interference in Lebanon has lost its French identity?

The President: I believe that Mrs Duteil agrees with me on the answer. I mean that the Multinational Force, whose backbone is the U.S. force, has deviated from the framework of the objective that was announced. Whether we agree or not, we see that the U.S. force is the axle or the backbone of the other forces. The U.S. forces have become a fighting force in Lebanon, not only against Syria as a state, but also against popular factions in Lebanon. The United States, this superpower, has become a party alongside a militia against another party or other parties. This is a matter that makes us say that the U.S. forces are far from the objective that they have come to achieve.

Of course, we believe that there is an attempt to get France and other European states involved. We have attempted a great deal to avoid any problems between us and France in Lebanon. I can prove this by the fact that at a certain time we received the secretary general of the French Ministry of External Relations in the wake of the raid that the French planes carried out on our positions. We have not announced that the French planes have bombed our positions, but we satisfied ourselves by informing France through diplomatic channels that this action must not be repeated. We have said that the matter might be related to domestic French affairs. In light of our assessment, we believe that it is related to domestic French affairs. But regardless of the importance of these domestic affairs, they must not drag a state into war. We are also, as Syrian officials and administrators, not required to be wiser than the French officials and their administration. Of course, I respect all, but I say that we have actually attempted to behave as wisely as we could. We hope that the French appreciate and understand this. We see, as I have said before, that France has a role in the Middle East, but also Syrian-French relations must be good and these relations must be promoted on the basis of equality and mutual interests and respect.

I do not want to evaluate the task of France in Lebanon, but I would like to say that it deviates from the useful course that I have pointed out in the same way that it gets involved or in the same way that the others can involve it in domestic or Arab affairs. I know that in France there are a number of officials who view the consequences of the French involvment just as we view them, and we notice that in France there is a tendency for independence of opinion and action in Lebanon. But returning to this, there are other domestic or foreign forces that work in the opposite direction. Despite all this, I am optimistic over the future of French-Syrian relations and I hope that my optimism will be in the right place. At any rate, the ball is now in the French court.

Question: Do you have a solution that would put an end to the escalated U.S. shelling of your positions in Lebanon; and could such a solution be acceptable to both sides?

The President: We fight and meet. I mean we meet as individuals. A few days ago, Rumsfeld was here. I told one of the U.S. officials in my answer to a question: We pledge not to go to your country and fight you there, but we also pledge with the same force that we will fight you if you come to our country and region and attack us. We know and acknowledge that you are a superpower with limitless strength. I now add: We do not want any clashes between us and the United States. We have no interest in that. But at the same time, when we are attacked we have no choice but to defend ourselves. This is what we said to the U.S. officials. We cannot understand U.S. actions against us and the Lebanese citizens except that they are hostile aggressions. We want to settle the problems between us and the United States. This agrees with our interests and I believe with the U.S. interests, unless the United States has colonial interests, because I cannot see any legitimate interests for the United States in Lebanon and our region. The statements, or let me say the statements made by some U.S. officials on this subject, have nothing to do with the truth, especially when they tell the American people that U.S. interests in Lebanon are threatened. What are the U.S. interests in Lebanon? Lebanon is not an economic power, an oil-rich country, or a military power. Where are the U.S. interests? Actually, I cannot see them; I mean I cannot see any legitimate U.S. interests in Lebanon.

If, as they sometimes say, the purpose is to keep the USSR away, the USSR does not exist in Lebanon. The USSR does not exist and did not exist before the Israeli invasion and the arrival of the U.S. forces. It also did not exist afterward, and does not exist now. If the purpose concerns the Syrian presence and that Syria constitutes a threat to the legitimate U.S. interests, which no prophet can pinpoint exactly, then Syria has been physically present in Lebanon for hundreds of years. Syria and Lebanon are one people. We are two independent states, but this does not mean that we have become two completely different peoples. The French people are the first to realize this fact. We have been one people throughout history. The bonds of kinship and history between the citizens in Syria and Lebanon are stronger than the bonds between American citizens in any two states in the United States. If the purpose concerns the most recent development, we have also existed as a military force in Lebanon over the past 8 years at the official request of the Lebanese president and the cries of help from the Lebanese citizens. We have made great human and economic sacrifices in response to this request. We did that when nobody else was in a position to give any useful help to Lebanon.

If we wanted to seize Lebanon, or if we had any plan in Lebanon to threaten the United States, we would have carried it out during the past 8 years. If we had any plan with the USSR to ensure certain interests for the USSR in Lebanon, we would have also carried it out during the past 8 years. Moreover, if we had a plan to attack Israel through Lebanon, we would have carried it out during the past 8 years. Where, then, is the logic in the stand of the Washington administration?

We entered Lebanon and stopped the civil war. The civil war came to an end after our entry, and, consequently, we achieved security for Lebanon. However, we did not achieve peace, because peace must be achieved by the Lebanese themselves. We have worked for that. We have sacrificed the blood of Syrian citizens in order to end the civil war in Lebanon. Nobody else in the world has sacrificed blood for the sake of ending the civil war in Lebanon.

If we wanted to enumerate the results achieved by the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the current U.S. invasion and compare them with the declared objectives of this invasion, we would find that what was achieved was the opposite. The Israelis said that they invaded Lebanon to protect the inhabitants of Galilee and to put an end to the chaos in Lebanon. Has the Israeli invasion achieved any better security than what existed before the invasion? I do not think so, because the Lebanese feel that they are colonized by the Israelis and they are resisting this colonialism. I believe that the invasion of Lebanon has cost Israel more than what it would have sustained had the old situation continued for another 50 years. There were not any mentionable losses among the Israelis as a result of military operations across the Lebanese-Israeli border. Therefore, Israel spilled more Israeli, Lebanese, Syrian, and Palestinian blood. It seems that the U.S. forces are also following the same course. Therefore, we hope that U.S. forces will not become further involved. We are saying all this to the Americans. Contacts are taking place openly from time to time between us and the Americans. We hope that the United States will again conduct itself responsibly as a superpower and that its conduct will help stop the war, not develop it, and will also help remove the Israelis from Lebanon and preserve Lebanon's national and pan-Arab status.

Question: What are Syria's interests in Lebanon and what are its conditions for withdrawing from it?

The President: Our interests in Lebanon are that Lebanon be liberated from the Israeli occupation, restrictions, and conditions as well as from the imperialist forces' interventions that are trying to subjugate it to their hegemony. When this is fulfilled, we will have no conditions for withdrawal from Lebanon — when Lebanon feels that it does not need any assistance from us. Until this objective is achieved, it is our duty to continue to help the Lebanese people in facing, confronting, and aborting Israeli and imperialist ambitions.

Question: How will the PLO be the real representative of the Palestinian people? What are Syria's contributions to the Palestine question? What policy will Syria adopt in order to achieve the establishement of a Palestinian state?

The President: The Palestine question is our central issue, being the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Consequently, it is the axis of our struggle. Syria's sacrifices with regard to the blood of its sons and its economy, for the sake of the Palestine question are well known and nobody can deny them. Syria's stand has been and is still the bastion against all attempts to liquidate this question. We are struggling to achieve a just solution to the Palestine question that is based on recognizing the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to establish their own independent state on their national soil. There will be no peace in this region without this just solution. There are numerous and clear resolutions that have been adopted by the United Nations whose implementation would lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state and the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights.

What hampers the implementation of these resolutions is Israel's ridiculing of the United Nations and its resolutions as well as Israel's insistence on pursuing its aggressive and expansionist trend, which is fully supported by the United States through its military, financial, and political aid and its denial of the UN resolutions concerning the Palestine question and the occupied Arab territories, resolutions which it previously accepted. This is in addition to the United States' adoption of the Israeli stand concerning nonrecognition of the Palestinian people's rights and the PLO as the Palestinians' sole and legitimate representative. The question that must be posed is: Why is the PLO not the legitimate representative of the Palestinians as long as it expresses their objectives and wages their struggle for regaining their full rights?

Question: What are the USSR's objectives in the Middle East and what is the present status of USSR-Syrian relations?

The President: Regarding the USSR's objectives in the Middle East, it is the USSR that should be asked. On our part, we have not felt through our dealing and relations with it that it has objectives conflicting with the interests of the people in this region. We felt unbiased support for our just struggle against invasion and occupation. Our relations with the USSR are based on friendship, cooperation, and mutual respect. We in Syria and the USSR are concerned about promoting these relations. The USSR sincerely supports our struggle for liberating the occupied Arab territories, regaining the usurped Arab rights, and confronting the aggression and expansionism that Israel is pursuing with strong U.S. support. The USSR also firmly supports our struggle for the achievement of the just and lasting peace in the region.

Question: Syria is the only Arab state that is directly confronting Israel. What are Syria's commitments and responsibilities toward this confrontation?

The President: Our commitments and responsibilities are those of any country that finds itself facing the occupation of a part of its territory and threatened by the occupation to expand in the rest of this territory. These commitments and responsibilities require us to do the best that we can to liberate the occupied parts of our territory and to defend our homeland.

Question: What are Syrian-Iraqi relations really like, and what is Syria's stand toward the Iranian war?

The President: The Iraqi-Iranian war was started by the Iraqi regime, which waged this war at a time when the Islamic Republic of Iran announced its support for the Arabs' struggle against Israeli ambitions. Stemming from our pan-Arab stand, which implies gaining the Islamic Revolution in Iran and its stand on our side as well as preventing the creation of a continuous state of hostility between the Arab nation and Iran — because this state of hostility certainly conflicts with the pan-Arab interests of the Arab masses, particularly since the Iraqi regime's stand was not defensive when the war broke out as Iraq dispatched its forces inside the Iranian territories — we have adopted a stand against this war since the beginning. It is a war that only serves the interests of the Arab nation's enemies because it weakens a brotherly Arab country, Iraq, and a friendly Islamic country, Iran, at the same time.

Regarding our differences with the Iraqi regime, to which you have referred, they precede the Iraqi-Iranian war and have emerged due to the Syrian-Iraqi unity that was in the process of coming into being and after we had agreed on a pan-Arab working charter and a draft constitution for a united state. After all these achievements, the Iraqi regime rejected the whole idea of the unity and disapproved all that was agreed on, and even waged a propoganda war and other types of war against us. It also created certain baseless incidents to justify its retreat from the unity process. We did all that we could to prevent this retreat and pursue the unity process but our efforts failed due to the Iraqi regime's insistence on rejecting the unity between Syria and Iraq.

Final question: How was Syria able to achieve the leading position in the Arab homeland?

The President: We in the Arab region are facing a Zionist-imperialist design that is aimed at dominating this region. Within the framework of this design, Israel is pursuing its aggressions against the Arab territories and is continuing its expansionist policy within an attempt to fulfill the objective of establishing greater Israel to extend from the Nile to the Euphrates. The dangers of this design are obvious. We have always called for confronting these dangers through a unified Arab stand and a joint Arab action. Our actions have always been toward fulfilling this end. The question is that of a stand and an action. It is a question of ambition toward more effective participation by everybody, not a question of rank or position. In this conflict, Syria adopts a stand that we believe to be a reflection of the feelings and desires of the Arab nation's masses —a stand that enjoys the great support of these masses.

Shamir Sends 'Resolute' Message to Shultz

TA250707 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel — live]

[Text] More than it was angered by the meeting between Mubarak and 'Arafat, Jerusalem was angered by the U.S. support and, moreover, by the way it was expressed: in the open, without any reservations whatsoever. Government sources say that the Americans are repeating their mistakes. We have learned that the prime minister was almost personally offended by the U.S. position. On Friday, Shamir formulated a resolute message to his counterpart, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. The message expresses protest and astonishment over the latest U.S. moves. In contrast, an official protest has not yet been lodged with Egypt through the so-called diplomatic channels. Political circles say that Israel prefers to wait for the moment, rather than to harm relations which have been continuously deteriorating anyway.

It seems that Israel was taken by surprise last weekend. It is very doubtful whether Ambassador Rosenne knew, prior to his meeting with Assistant Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, the extent of the U.S. support for the meeting in Cairo. According to post-factum assessments made by the Israeli Embassy in Washington, the United States was aware of the preparations in anticipation of the meeting between Mubarak and 'Arafat but it did nothing to prevent it, it might even have encouraged it. A week ago, it was the assessment of Foreign Ministry officials in Jerusalem that the United States was seeking to revive the Reagan plan through the departure of the terrorists from Tripoli. However, it did not know that the process would gather momentum so quickly. President Reagan's speech over the weekend casts a new light on the strategic understanding mentioned time and again in both Jerusalem and Washington. According to political circles, there may be understanding between the United States and Israel on the Syrian-Lebanese issue but one cannot talk at present about strategic understanding.

Sources knowledgeable about Israeli-U.S. relations told us last night that there is no room for talk about a crisis, just as there was no room for the euphoria in the wake of Shamir's visit to Washington. The plain fact is that both countries differ over the peace process; this was the case during the summit meeting in Washington and this is also the case now. The Reagan plan is not dead, as Jerusalem had hoped, it is alive and kicking, at least as far as the United States is concerned.

It is believed in Jerusalem that the resumption of the peace process is still by way of wishful thinking on the part of the Americans and has no real prospects.

There is no sign whatsoever that Husayn wants to join the negotiating table, 'Arafat's situation in the Arab world at large has largely weakened, not to mention his position within his own organization; to wit, the waves of criticism which greeted his meeting with the Egyptian president within his own territory, Fatah.

Circles in Jerusalem again assessed that even if 'Arafat has escaped from Syria's grasp it is doubtful whether the latter will allow it to join the political process along with Husayn.

In conclusion, with or without a chance, with or without Israel's approval, the resumption of the peace process is an issue which will keep the Middle East busy in the foreseeable future even if the Lebanese affair has not yet come to an end. On this point, there is a fundamental and deep dispute between Israel and the United States. Political circles told me last night: If Husayn indeed steps off the fence now relations between the two countries will run into an intolerable situation.

'Regret' Expressed at Reagan Announcement on PLO

TA251249 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1244 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] At the end of the Cabinet meeting a few minutes ago, Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor expressed regret at the announcement of the U.S. President about the meeting between President Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat. Meridor expressed the hope that the United States and Egypt will continue to adhere to the Camp David accords. According to him, there is a consensus in Israel that we will never hold negotiations with 'Arafat or with the PLO. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that Yitzhaq Shamir briefed the ministers on 'Arafat's talk with Mubarak and the meetings he held last week with the Italian foreign affairs minister.

Cabinet Discusses U.S. Stance

TA251439 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] No decisions were made at the Cabinet meeting today regarding additional reaction to the meeting between the Egyptian president and the PLO's Yasir 'Arafat. This is reported by our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer. The Cabinet heard from Yitzhaq Shamir about his message to George Shultz, in which the prime minister firmly protested the meeting which represents some sort of purification for the terrorist organization.

Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i said that one should take a grave view of the U.S. move, since this followed soon after the understanding reached between Israel and the United States in the strategic sphere. Furthermore, according to Minister Moda'i, this is the first time that we are faced with a U.S. announcement on Yasir 'Arafat's role in the achievement of peace, and this runs counter to the Camp David accords.

Minister Avraham Sharir said that in future, the United States may support the establishment of a Palestinian state, and everything should be done to convince it that as long as the PLO exists U.S. interests will be harmed.

Further on 25 Dec Meeting

TA251829 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel — recorded]

[Excerpt] The political discussion in today's Cabinet session was summed up by Yitzhaq Shamir in the following principles:

Israel completely rejects 'Arafat's joining the peace process; Israel expresses its discontent with Egypt's behavior and the U.S. position; while Israel adheres to the Camp David accords, to peace with Egypt, and to cooperation with the United States. It was stated in the Cabinet session that Washington has done what must not be done: Instead of encouraging Mubarak to tighten relations with us, he is encouraged to tighten relations with the PLO.

Government officials say that the serious point in the last U.S. move is the attempt to incorporate 'Arafat in the peace process. There is no place in Camp David for 'Arafat and the PLO; you cannot harness these two horses — 'Arafat and Camp David — to one wagon, it was said. The officials added that they wondered about U.S. support for the meeting at a time when the United States has suffered from acts of Arab terrorism and paid the price in hundreds of victims. Prime Minister Shamir emphasized that there is a consensus in Israel, including the coalition and opposition, that there must be no dialogue with the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat. A Cabinet source said after the session that it must be remembered that the Arabs can talk among themselves, but in the final analysis peace must be made with Israel.

The prime minister briefed the ministers on the protest letter he sent over the weekend to Secretary of State George Shultz. Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir voiced reservation about the Israeli reaction. He said that the reaction was too sharp. The refugee 'Arafat should not have been given the international certificate he was awarded thanks to the Israeli reaction. The tourism minister added that the Israeli Government found itself in the same boat with the PLO Executive Council, and against Mubarak and the U.S. Administration. Sharir claimed that the public relations approach should be different, stressing that the existence of the PLO damages the interests of the United States and Egypt.

Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said today that the national consensus against the PLO must be emphasized, rather than the differences between the United States and us. The reaction must be sharp, but not so sharp as to bring about a crisis with Egypt and the United States. Levi suggests a series of public relations campaigns in Israel and abroad in order to clearly present the terrorist nature of the PLO, unlike the political nature that is attributed to it. At the same time, Levi suggests that the dialogue between Israel and the Judaea and Samaria population be intensified.

Minister Mordekhay Ben-Porat said that there is perhaps something positive in the Cairo meeting. This meeting emphasizes the splits in the Arab world, and perhaps it will eventually help split PLO. Ben Porat said that one should not be surprised by the U.S. position; during the last few weeks we have dined, and now the United States is presenting us with the bill.

A summation of the political debate can be found in the words of government circles, who said today that there are subjects on which there is no agreement with Washington, while on other subjects such as Lebanon, there is complete agreement. We must not agree where there are differences of opinion, but at the same time we must make full use of the existing agreement.

Arens 'Moderate' Reaction

TA251926 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] In the Cabinet today, there were differences of opinion between the prime minister and most of the ministers on the one hand, and the defense minister on the other, regarding the degree of gravity with which one should view U.S. reaction to the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting. The prime minister briefed the ministers on the message he sent U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. In the message, Mr Shamir protested firmly what he defined as the purification the United States accorded the PLO and 'Arafat. The prime minister believes that this purification will prevent moderate Palestinians from joining the peace process. Our correspondent Nisim Mish'al reports that most of the ministers agreed with the prime minister's remarks but, in contrast, Defense Minister Moshe Arens did not take a grave view of the U.S. reaction to the Cairo meeting. Arens stance on this issue is more moderate than the prime minister's.

Shamir Office Denies Disagreement

TA251953 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] The prime minister's office announces there is no foundation to the report aired on television this evening to the effect that there were differences between the prime minister and the defense minister during the Cabinet meeting today regarding the U.S. reaction to the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting.

Shamir on U.S. Reaction to Mubarak-'Arafat Meeting

TA231223 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir again said today that the talk between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and PLO head Yasir 'Arafat is a bad sign for the future, and constitutes harm to the peace process. The prime ministers is amazed that the U.S. Government greeted the meeting, and it did so, in his opinion, because it has not properly evaluated what is behind this move. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that Mr Shamir said this in a meeting with U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd in his office. According to the prime minister, after Tripoli there was a good chance that moderate elements in the Arab world would join the peace process according to the Camp David accords. But after the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting and the positive response it received in the United States, the prime minister fears that those moderate elements will again disappear.

U.S. Administration 'Wrong'

TA260940 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Dec 83pp 1,6

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Shlomo Naqdimon on 25 December; place not given]

[Excerpt] "The U.S. Administration is wrong in thinking that the meeting between 'Arafat and Mubarak has a chance of promoting the Reagan plan. Israel has rejected Reagan's initiative in the past and in our talks in Washington we made this position clear," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated yesterday in an interview with *YEDI'OT AHARONOT*.

The prime minister believes that the U.S. Administration's positive approach to the meeting in Cairo characterizes the differences of opinion that exist anyway between the United States and Israel on issues such as Israel's borders and the future of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District. "The Americans are very well aware of our unambiguous position on these matters," Shamir said and added: "There is no factor in this region or in the world that can ignore the obvious fact that there can be no solution in the Middle East without negotiations with Israel and without its approval."

Question: Does the current tension between Jerusalem and Washington in the wake of the meeting in Egypt show that the renewed "honeymoon" between the two countries has come to an end?

Answer: On the one hand I would not use extreme words such as "tension," but on the other hand I would also not use the word "honeymoon." Two courses should be discerned in our relations with the United States. On certain matters there are differences of opinion but those should not hinder cooperation on issues on which we see eye to eye. The differences of opinion regarding the meeting between 'Arafat and Mubarak should not stand in the way of cooperation between the United States and Israel.

Question: Has there been any withdrawal whatsoever from the implementation of the agreements on strategic cooperation you reached with the President since your return from the United States?

Answer: There has been no withdrawal on any issue. There is a timetable for its implementation. As for the meeting in Cairo, I am convinced that we will still discuss the matter with the United States and that we will do everything we can to prove to our American friends that our position on this issue is right.

Question: Do you think Egypt harmed the peace treaty with Israel by the very fact of the meeting between the Egyptian president and 'Arafat?

Answer: We have made it plain to the Egyptians that we regard this move as a contravention of the peace treaty.

U.S. PLO Policy 'Naive'

TA271027 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Dec 83 pp 3, 6

[Report by Gad Becker]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday stated that he was surprised by the "naive policy" of the United States which is currently encouraging and strengthening Yasir 'Arafat.

"The United States plans to set up a strategic force in Jordan to strengthen King Husayn's rule and it is at the same time encouraging the PLO, which poses a vital threat to the Jordanian regime," the prime minister said.

He pointed our that, as far as Israel is concerned, the PLO is a dangerous enemy but one that does not threaten its very existence.

Speaking to a group of U.S. Congressmen, Shamir said that the details revealed about 'Arafat's talks in Cairo do not show that he has even budged one inch from his old goals and methods. The prime minister stated: "We had hoped that after its second expulsion from Lebanon, the PLO would lose its political and military weight and that, subsequently, the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria would do what the PLO has been afraid of for years — they would give up terror and violence. However, the meeting in Cairo — which was encouraged by the United States — contributed to the artificial resurrection of a negative element which constitutes the main obstacle on the road to a political arrangement in the region."

Shamir Receives Israeli Druze Leaders

TA262054 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2045 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Jerusalem, 26 Dec (ITIM) — The spiritual leader of the Druze community in Israel, Shaykh Amin Tarif, and the head of the Druze judiciary, Shaykh (Labib Abu Ruqun) were received today by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in his office for a talk lasting about one hour.

In the course of the talk, the Druze leaders spoke of the problems preoccupying the Druze community in Israel and expressed their desire to help create trusting and cordial relations between Israel and the Druze community in Lebanon. Among other things, the Druze leaders told the prime minister: Every people has its country, its kings, and presidents; but we Druze have the State of Israel, which we love and to which we are faithful.

In his reply the prime minister said that the people of Israel greatly appreciate the friendship and loyalty of the Druze, and promised that he would do everything in his power to create a relationship based on trust and friendship with the Druze community in Lebanon as well.

Observers on Aftermath of Mubarak-'Arafat Meeting

TA231231 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Report by David Essing — live]

[Text] The Mubarak-'Arafat meeting has stirred up a hornets' nest here and abroad. It spells an end to the current Israeli-U.S. honeymoon, puts the already cool Egyptian-Israeli relations into the deep freeze and it will spark even more fireworks in the already shattered PLO camp. Some political analysts in Jerusalem say the United States appears bound on resurrecting PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat after his expulsion from Tripoli. As one analyst says, it looks like a replay of September 1982 when the United States got the PLO back in the action with the Reagan plan after 'Arafat was forced out of Beirut.

Washington's support for the Cairo meeting will also warm the hearts of America's friends in the Arab world for an attack on the strategic understanding worked out by Prime Minister Shamir and President Reagan. This new strain in U.S.-Israeli relations could be exploited by U.S. negotiators to hone down any big Israeli ideas in cooperation talks next month. State Department Spokesman John Hughes refers to Mr 'Arafat — and that Mr only rubs it in for Prime Minister Shamir, who calls 'Arafat the chief of the terrorists. All the more so, since Shamir and Reagan apparently had earlier agreed to work together on stepping up the military pressure in Lebanon. The United States clobbered the Syrians and Israel hit the PLO. But now the United States seems to have changed direction and it appears to be coordinating with Egypt, at least on the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting. Some Israeli observers believe the Cairo get-together was cooked up by Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali in his talks in Washington. The Cairo reception for 'Arafat buys Egypt political capital in the Arab world and it freezes even deeper relations with Israel; a long-time Egyptian move that somce Israeli experts see as aimed at burying Camp David for a new course, one that might help Mubarak rebuild bridges with the Arab world.

Political observers see the Egyptians launching a major public relations campaign, also inside Israel, to attack the government's rejection of the Reagan proposal. But if the U.S. game plans are to prod 'Arafat into reopening negotiations with Jordan's King Husayn, it may also contain a built-in time bomb. Witness the fierce reaction of the PLO hardliners. Will 'Arafat be able to weather this new PLO storm and deliver the goods? He was not able to give Husayn the green light to negotiate the Reagan plan on behalf of the Palestinians last April. In any event, Prime Minister Shamir signalled last night that even if this does come off Israel will not negotiate, as he put it, directly or indirectly with the PLO.

Schiffer on Cairo Meeting

TA250545 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] What has happened to the great and deep understanding with the United States? The prime minister takes a serious view of the fact that the United States has welcomed the meeting between Egyptian president and the PLO chief. Over the weekend, there were feverish contacts between Israeli and U.S. representatives to explain Israel's position on the issue. As for Washington's position, it appears quite clear: If the PLO recognizes Israel's existence and the UN resolutions it appears that the United States would be glad to hold contacts with this organization and to promote the frozen Reagan initiative. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports on the possible political reaction in Jerusalem:

[Schiffer — live] The situation created in the wake of the meeting between Mubarak and 'Arafat puts policymakers in Jerusalem in the complicated position of neither here nor there. After all, only 2 weeks ago government spokesmen declared that a new era had begun in Israeli-U.S. relations; only a few days ago there was talk about strategic understanding but now it seems as if nothing has happened.

The Americans knew in advance about the meeting between the Egyptian president and Yasir 'Arafat and welcomed it. In its wake, administration leaders now believe that President Reagan's peace initiative will be given renewed momentum and that chances of King Husayn's joining the negotiating table will increase.

In a meeting held in a bitter atmosphere between the Israeli ambassador in the United States and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger at the end of the week, Me'ir Rosenne said that the Egyptian move contradicted the clauses of the peace treaty with Egypt. Eagleburger rejected this argument.

The Egyptians are trying to persuade Israel that they are making efforts to moderate the PLO and to make 'Arafat agree to join the peace process. Political observers believe that the harsh reaction of government spokesmen also stems from the feelings of frustration over the fact that Yasir 'Arafat got out of Tripoli despite the policy of vagueness and the thunder of the Israeli Navy cannons. It is now clear that the Israeli moves had no significance whatsoever and that only Israel remained in the dark because it was not wholly aware of the move being concocted between Egypt, the United States, and the PLO leader.

In view of the delicate state of relations with Egypt, the only thing the Cabinet can do is, perhaps, to condemn the United States and to try and convince it of the justness of Israel's position. Consequently, the idea of lodging a formal protest with Cairo has been ruled out. As for the United States, the problem lies in the fact that President Reagan himself came out in support of Egypt last night.

In conclusion, political sources last night reiterated that those who decided to launch the war in Lebanon and destroy the PLO's military infrastructure should have been aware of the fact that the political option would come up in an extremely acute manner and that the possibility of a dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians would gather momentum.

Therefore, this morning the Cabinet will have to face this consequence of the war in order to plan its reaction to this move.

'Ali Interviewed by MA'ARIV on 'Arafat Plans

TA231335 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Dec 83 p 2

[Report on interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali by Washington-based correspondent 'Oded Granot; date and place not given]

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali told *MA'ARIV* that Egypt is pressuring 'Arafat to show more flexibility and join the political process.

"We are pleading with 'Arafat to proceed in the direction of peace and enter a dialogue with King Husayn," 'Ali said.

In an interview with *MA'ARIV*, the Egyptian foreign minister said that this time 'Arafat asked to meet President Mubarak and this attests to a change in his position.

'Ali pointed to other two signs which he believes show that 'Arafat is currently adopting "a position clearer than ever" and that he plans to take the road of peace: first, his statements in Tripoli prior to his departure about his intentions to enter negotiations with King Husayn at once; and second, both George Habash and Hayif Hawatimah have declared their willingness to follow in 'Arafat's footsteps.

'Ali stated unambiguously that Egypt does not intend to recognize any PLO organization other than the one led by Yasir 'Arafat. Hinting at Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] and those rebelling against 'Arafat, 'Ali said: "This is not the PLO."

On another subject, 'Ali put the blame for the attacks on the Israeli ambassador in Cairo in the Egyptian press on the report Moshe Sason sent to the prime minister. 'Ali said that, based on this report, Shamir stated during his visit to Washington that the Egyptian people want normalization with Israel whereas the Egyptian leadership and government do not. "The ambassador supplies information to his government. At times, his assessments are absolutely misleading and wrong. He has no access to "kitchen secrets" or to the Egyptian top echelon. It may be that Israelis and tourists are welcome in the grocery shop and people are nice to them and one may get the impression that everything is fine, whereas that is not the real situation. The real situation is that your activities in the West Bank or in the entire region affect the Egyptian top echelon, the media, and senior officials," 'Ali concluded.

Egypt's Ghali on Relations, Camp David

TA241226 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Egyptian leaders dismiss the tourism issue as marginal, pointing more to the autonomy question, Lebanon, and the need to bring more Arab elements into the peace talks. Minister of State for Foreign Affiars Butrus Ghali told reporter Alan Ben-'Ami that the meeting between Mubarak and 'Arafat should be seen in this context, reinforcing the peace process which he, Ghali, has termed a cold peace:

[Begin recording][Ben-'Ami] Quite a large body of public opinion in Israel may feel that Egypt perhaps is not doing all it can to reinforce the peace and turn it into a hot peace. They are looking, for example, perhaps at the failure of communications. They are disappointed that no Egyptian minister has been here to Israel in the last few months.

[Ghali] (?Well, it is) since the last, since the Israeli agressions against Lebanon. And we say it publicly. That is not a reason not to be optimist and not to believe that we are trying our best to find solutions...

[Ben-'Ami — interrupts] At one time, if I'm not mistaken, what you and other Egyptian leaders said was that one thing that would certainly help the peace process and relations with Israel would be an Israeli commitment to withdraw its troops from Lebanon. That commitment has been given. Why does Egypt feel that this in itself is perhaps a positive move which could bring reciprocal moves from Egypt?

[Ghali] Because the troops are still in Lebanon this year. If you have invaded Lebanon, have intervened in Lebanon, without any right — after all Lebanon is an independent state, and who asked you to enter Lebanon, to intervene? Your declaration was that you will not consider this as an aggression?

[Ben-'Ami] What about the position of Egypt regarding Syrian troops in Lebanon? What's your attitude on that?

[Ghali] This will have to be decided by the Lebanese Government. They have to say whatever they want to say.

[Ben-'Ami] If I'm not mistaken, the government has said quite clearly that it would like to see the withdrawal of all troops from Lebanon, including Syrian.

[Ghali] Then we are for the withdrawal of troops.

[Ben-'Ami] With regard to the dialogue between Egypt and Israel, what do you think can be done by both sides, and I stress both sides, in order to get the dialogue moving perhaps at a warmer and more brisk pace?

[Ghali] I believe that certainly if you will adopt in you policy of measures to build the confidence among the Palestinians of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, that certainly this will help to create a new atmosphere and reinforce the position of the moderate Palestinians. Nothing has been done during the last 4 or 5 years.

[Ben-'Ami] What about simply getting together and talking again about the Palestinian problem, at a direct face to face level?

[Ghali] We are ready, we are ready, but again we have to have a mandate from the Palestinians and we want to have the Jordanians. We say it publicly for the last few weeks, the last few months.

[Ben-'Ami] And that would include negotiations according to the Camp David process? You don't see the Camp David process as being dead?

[Ghali] No. We are in favor of any kind of formula which can help us. Camp David, Reagan, anything.

No Further Annexations If Peace Process Continues

TA270536 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] The Israeli Government does not intend to annex Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District as long as the Camp David peace process continues. This was stated by Justice Minister Moshe Nisim in a meeting of the Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee on extending the land betterment tax to Judaea and Samaria. Criticism of the proposal was voiced by both coalition and opposition committee members. The coalition executive last night decided not to discuss the idea. Coalition Chairman Avraham Shapira told the executive meeting that the proposal would be the first step toward extending Israeli law to Judaea and Samaria, an issue necessitating a more thorough discussion.

Arens Visits Bethlehem, Makes Remarks

TA242108 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens arrived in Bethlehem to participate in the reception given by the Bethlehem mayor on the occasion of Christmas. It is the first time in 16 years that an Israeli Government minister has visited Bethlehem for the Christmas celebrations. Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek also participated in the event. Foreign correspondents report that the defense minister told his hosts that disagreements should be settled through talks, good will and an attempt to understand one another. The defense minister expressed the hope that his presence will mark the improvement of relations between Muslims, Christians, and Jews.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj said that the Palestinians, Jordanians,and Israelis should negotiate a settlement in the territories. According to Frayj, the Palestinians on the West Bank are entitled to identity of their own. Frayj took advantage of the occasion to praise the meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and the Egyptian president.

Envoy to Malta Wounded in Assassination Attempt

TA241132 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1128 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Israel's Charge d'Affaires in Malta Ester Milo has been slightly wounded in an assassination attempt. Five pistol shots were fired at her as she was about to start her car in downtown Valetta.

Reportage on Activities, Attacks on IDF in Lebanon

Handgrenade Thrown at Convoy

TA241927 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] A handgrenade was thrown at an IDF convoy travelling along the main street of An-Nabatiyah in southern Lebanon today. There were no casualties. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the IDF soldiers spotted the person who threw the hangrenade and opened fire in his direction but he managed to escape. The security forces combed the area.

Soldier Wounded By Bomb

TA241650 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1648 GMT 24 Dec 83

["IDF Spokesman Announcement No. 1" — ITIM headline]

[Text] [No dateline as received] An IDF soldier was wounded in Sidon this evening by the explosion of a bomb planted on the shoulder of the road while an IDF patrol was travelling through the place. The wounded soldier was evacuated to hospital. The IDF forces have imposed a curfew on the site of the incident and have begun a search. The explosives charge exploded in the southern suburbs of Sidon at nearly 1700 this evening. A local pasaserby was also wounded by the explosion.

Moves From Sidon Building

TA242030 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] The IDF has transferred the military authorities offices from Sidon to Kafr Falus in the outskirts of Sidon. In a few days the building will again be used by the Lebanese Government officials and the Lebanese Gendarmerie. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht mentions that in the wake of the terrorist attack against the Tyre IDF Command, it was decided — for security reasons — to remove the Lebanese Government offices from the military authorities' building. The decision caused a great deal of discontent in Sidon and it was then decided to return the building to the hands of the Lebanese Government.

Deployment in Sidon Changed

TA250522 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] The IDF has changed its deployment in Sidon in the wake of terrorist attacks in the town. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that paratrooper units have been stationed in Sidon to take over daily security activities in the region. The wave of terrorist attacks began 1 month ago when thousands of the Ansar inmates were released in southern Lebanon. Some 800 of them settled in Sidon.

Handgrenades Thrown in An-Nabatiyah

TA261250 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1231 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] At noon two handgrenades were thrown at an IDF patrol which was moving through the An-Nabatiyah region. One IDF soldier was slightly wounded from the explosion of one of the grenades. Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, comments that attacks against IDF soldiers have increased recently in An-Nabatiyah and Sidon. Elite IDF units have been transferred to these towns in an attempt to cut down on the attacks there.

3 Wounded Near Al-Qir'awn

TA261951 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] The IDF spokesman has announced that three IDF soldiers were wounded at approximately 1900 [1700 GMT] when light arms fire was directed from an ambush at their vehicle east of Lake Al-Qir'awn. The wounded men were taken to a hospital and an IDF force has begun searching the area of the incident.

Luanda Broadcasts Five-Country Summit Communique
MB220826 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Final communique of the fourth summit conference of the heads of state of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Sao Tome and Principe held in Bissau from 18 to 20 December]

[Text] The fourth conference of the heads of state of the People's Republic of Angola, the Republic of Cape Verde, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the People's Republic of Mozambique, and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe was held from 18 to 20 December 1983 in Bissau under the chairmanship of His Excellency Brigadier General Joao Bernardo Vieira, president of the Council of the Revolution of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

The fourth conference was held at a particularly difficult time in terms of the international situation. This period is characterized by a crisis of unprecedented proportions that is having a profound effect on the political, economic, and social situation of the developing countries — and particularly on the situation of the five countries — despite the numerous attempts which have been made to find solutions to the many world problems.

The heads of state were accompanied by important government delegations.

At the opening session, His Excellency Brig Gen Joao Bernardo Vieira, chairman of the Council of the Revolution of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, delivered a brilliant speech in which he highlighted the importance of this coordination meeting at this crucial time in the life of the five countries. He also stressed the basic need for unity to ensure the success of the common struggle being waged by these countries against underdevelopment and to safeguard national independence, sovereignty, and the gains of the revolutionary process now under way in these countries and being conducted by their respective peoples.

At the opening session, the heads of state observed a minute of silence in honor of the memory of Eduardo Mondlane, Amilcar Cabral, Agostinho Neto, and all the other martyrs of the heroic struggles for liberation waged by the fraternal peoples of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Sao Tome and Principe.

The heads of state laid wreaths at the Mausoleum of Amilcar Cabral in the (Mura) fortress, and rendered heartfelt homage to the memory of the founder of the Guinean and Cape Verdian nation, Comrade Amilcar Cabral, and to the other heroes of the struggle for national liberation led by the African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde.

The conference approved a working agenda which contained the following items: 1. organization of proceedings; 2. examination of reports from the former coordinating minister and the coordinating minister of the preparatory ministerial commission of the fourth summit; 3. general information on the situation in each country; 4. examination of the international situation; 5. venue and date of the next summit; 6. adoption of the final communique; and 7. closing of the conference.

The heads of state devoted a great deal of time to an exchange of information on the situation in each of their countries. They also reaffirmed their conviction that the ties of friendship and solidarity already cemented between the respective peoples constitute a valuable heritage and an inexhaustible source of courage, unity, and determination, which must be further strengthened for the consolidation of independence and the common and firm struggle against backwardness.

Having underlined the positive results achieved in relations among the five countries since May 1976, when the ministerial conference was held in Sao Tome and Principe, and taking into consideration the report by the former coordinating minister, His Excellency Silvino da Luz, foreign minister of the Republic of Cape Verde, [word indistinct] the activities of the ministerial commission, the conference made an in-depth examination of the activities conducted within the framework of multilateral cooperation.

After approving the reports and program of the ministerial commission, the five heads of state decided to recommend the implementation of the following guidelines for cooperation in 1984: the rational and most intensive possible utilization of the training facilities available in each country, allowing the creation of the necessary qualified manpower for the development of the five countries; activation of mechanisms to establish a common financial institution which will facilitate the necessary relationship of the five countries in this field with third parties [words indistinct] in international money markets; and the promotion of the development of trade among the five countries, employing business-oriented solutions to the greatest possible degree in order to make trade viable, render air and sea transport profitable, and improve harbor infrastructures and shipping.

The heads of state expressed satisfaction with the manner in which relations of cooperation between their countries in various fields have been developing since the achievement of their independence as well as with the unequivocal desire of each one of the five states to seek greater cooperation in various fields.

After examining the vast effects caused to the economies of their countries by drought, the heads of state expressed their appreciation for the positive response of the international community and urged it to intensify assistance to the five countries to enable them to deal successfully with the dramatic situation they face.

The political and diplomatic cooperation between the five countries was examined with particular interest by the heads of state. After reaffirming the stands defined in previous conferences and noting the need to strengthen coordination between the five countries in the diplomatic field, the heads of state decided to recommend concrete actions to this effect, notably the common utilitzation of diplomatic and consular representations when necessary, the intensification of coordination at the level of international organizations, and the signing of agreements between the respective ministers of foreign affairs or foreign relations.

The conference underlined once again the importance of using the Portuguese language in international organizations as a working language. The heads of state expressed their appreciation for the signifacant steps already made to this effect in implementing the recommendations of the third conference as well as for the goodwill demonstrated by Portugal, Brazil, and UNESCO.

On the world political situation, the heads of state expressed their deep concern in the face of the alarming proliferation of international crises and conflicts originated by the increasing use of force in relations between states and disrespect for the norms and principles governing international law. They stated that such conflicts pose a threat to the institutions and instruments created by the international community to ensure the maintenance of peace and security and endanger the very future of mankind. In accordance with the principles that have always defended the ideals which guided the national liberation struggle waged by their respective peoples, the heads of state stressed the importance of peace, independence, disarmament, development and international cooperation, which are fundamental issues in the current state of the struggle for international harmony.

Analyzing the international situation, the heads of state devoted special attention to southern Africa. In this context, they reaffirmed that the explosive situation prevailing in that region constitutes a dangerous hotbed of tension which gravely threatens international peace and security. The heads of state expressed the conviction that the culprit responsible for this situation is the racist and minority regime of South Africa, which illegally occupies Namibia and practices the inhuman apartheid policy and attacks and destabilizes the independent and sovereign countries in the region. Regarding Namibia, the heads of state called for the immediate and unconditional implementation of Resolution 435-78 of the UN Security Council and the plan contained in it for the independence of that territory as the only basis for the peaceful settlement of the conflict.

They reiterated their rejection of the absurd linkage or parallelism between the independence of Namibia and the withdrawal of the Cuban internationalist forces from the sovereign territory of the People's Republic of Angola. This constitutes an unacceptable interference in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of Angola. They regarded this linkage as a deliberate obstacle created by the racist Pretoria regime in complicity with its major allies with the aim of preventing the liberation of that territory and enabling the illegal activity of foreign interests and the plunder Namibia's riches and natural resources.

The conference expressed its appreciation for the efforts made by the UN Secretary General designed to achieve Namibia's independence. In view of South Africa's intransigence in maintaining the apartheid system and its obstinate refusal to implement Resolution 435, the heads of state reiterated the need to urgently apply general and compulsory sanctions decreed by the UN Security Council under the provisions of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter.

The conference vigorously condemned the invasion and occupation of parts of the territory of the People's Republic of Angola by the racist South African troops in flagrant disregard for the sovereignty of the Angolan people and the norms of international law and called for their immediate and unconditional withdrawal. It also condemned the encouragement and use of puppet gangs by the apartheid regime as a factor to destabilize the People's Republic of Angola.

The heads of state hailed the selfless and militant support given by the People's Republic of Angola to the liberation struggle of the Namibian people and SWAPO, their sole and legitimate representative. In view of the enormous weight on Angola as a result of this support — a weight which is being translated into thousands of lost human lives and huge material damage — the heads of states appealed to the African community in particular and the international community in general to decisively take up their responsibilities and duties by giving all-round material and financial assistance to the People's Republic of Angola.

They also reaffirmed their unconditional solidarity with the just struggle of the South African people led by the ANC, their sole and legitimate representative, and they warmly hailed the intensification of the struggle for the elimination of the apartheid system and for the construction of a democratic society of social justice, free of racism and racial discrimination, where equality and fraternity prevail. The heads of state called on members of the international community to reject the sham transformations effected by the racist regime, particularly the constitutional reforms, which only aim at masking the nature of apartheid in order to perpetuate it. These attempts demonstrate the inconsistency and decadence of this abominable regime.

The five heads of state condemned the continued acts of aggression and destabilization perpetrated by South Africa against the Frontline States. The conference vigorously condemned the acts of aggression against and violation of the territorial integrity carried out against the People's Republic of Mozambique by the Nazi-racist regime of Pretoria. In particular it repudiated the air bombing of Matola township carried out on 23 May 1983 by the racist army of South Africa, which resulted in the loss of lives of innocent children, women, and other peaceful and working citizens. The heads of state expressed particular condemnation of the warlike acts of the Pretoria regime, which recruits, trains, equips, supplies, and finances the armed bandits who infiltrate into the sovereign territory of the People's Republic of Mozambique to sabotage the consolidation of its economic independence as well as the building in peace of the political system which was freely chosen by the Mozambican people.

The heads of state hailed the Frontline States for the militant solidarity and unflinching support which they have been rendering to the just struggle of the Namibian and South African peoples and made a vehement appeal to the international community to step up its assistance to those countries. In the same vein the conference manifested its appreciation for the role performed by the Southern African Development Coordination Conference as an instrument for the economic emancipation of the Southern African peoples.

Having examined the issue of Western Sahara in light of the most recent events, they reaffirmed their total support for the struggle of Saharan people for the affirmation of their inalienable right to freely dispose of their destiny and the legitimacy of the admission of the SDAR as a full-fledged member of the OAU. The heads of state hailed the positive contribution made by the

19th summit of the OAU heads of state and government in search for a just and decisive solution of that question.

Having noted with deep concern the persistent refusal of the Kingdom of Morocco to hold direct negotiations with the Polisario Front in accordance with resolution AHG-104 on the Western Sahara adopted at the 19th OAU summit and in accordance with pertinent UN resolutions, the conference called on the Moroccan side to act in accordance with these resolutions, which imply a cease-fire and the holding of a self-determination referendum, thus permitting the free expression of the sovereign wish of the Saharan people.

On the dramatic situation prevailing in Chad, the heads of state reiterated their support for the 19th OAU summit and appealed for strict respect for the national independence and territorial integrity of that African country and appealed to the sides in the conflict to hold constructive negotiations with the aim of settling the differences between them peacefully without the interference of foreign forces.

The heads of state hailed the 19th OAU summit as an irrefutable sign of the African organization's return to normal functioning. They stressed the pioneering role performed by the OAU as a fundamental instrument in the process of the total liberation of the African Continent, and in the consolidation of peace and the promotion of the economic and social development for its peoples, and the need to constantly strengthen its internal cohesion and its ability to act in search of solutions to the problems of the continent.

Reviewing the East Timor situation, the heads of state reiterated their firm condemnation of the Indonesia regime for invading and occupying East Timor, for the genocide it has been carrying out against the Mauber people, as well as for the unilateral disruption of the cease-fire agreed upon with Fretilin in (Naributo) on 23 March 1983. The conference called for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Indonesian Army and the end of the restrictive measures imposed on the international humanitarian organizations by the Indonesian regime in East Timor. The conference reaffirmed its total support for the peace proposal presented by Fretilin to the Indonesian Government and called for its immediate implementation.

The conference also appealed to the UN secretary general to carry out the mandate given to him by the 37th UN General Assembly. It also insistently called on the Portuguese Government to fully assume its historical, political, and juridical responsibilities regarding the East Timor question so as to find a just solution to the conflict with Fretilin. The heads of state reiterated their total support for resolutions 384-75 and 389-76 of the UN Security Council as well as other resolutions of this organization on the question and stressed their unconditional and unflinching support for the just struggle of the Mauber people under the leadership of Fretilin, their sole and legitimate representative for the formation of a free and independent and sovereign nation.

The heads of state discussed with particular interest the situation in the Middle East and expressed their conviction that no lasting peace will be found without the prior settlement of Palestinian question. They reiterated their unconditional support for the struggle of Palestinian people, under the leadership of their sole and legitimate representative, to assert their indestructible right to create an independent and sovereign state.

In view of the situation prevailing in Lebanon, the conference reaffirmed the inalienable right of the Lebanese people to preserve their independence and to dispose of their own destiny. They state that the only way to safeguard Lebanon's territorial integrity and sovereignty would be the cessation of all foreign interference in its internal affairs, as well as the withdrawal of all foreign forces from its territory, the creation of favorable conditions for a dialogue between the different internal factions, and the establishment of a climate of peace and stability in the country.

Regarding the situation in Central America and the Caribbean region, the conference deeply deplored the recent events in that region of the world and vigorously condemned the invasion of and the aggression against the island of Grenada. In this connection, the conference reaffirmed its adherence to the internationally respected principle of peaceful solution of conflicts between states and the non-use of force in international relations. It also stressed the importance of strict observance of these principles as the only way of preserving international peace and security.

The conference expressed its concern over the situation prevailing in Nicaragua and condemned the acts of aggression and destabilization against that country aimed at annihilating the current revolutionary process. It expressed its solidarity with the Nicaraguan people and government in the defense of their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

On El Salvador, the conference expressed its solidarity with the struggle being waged by that country's people to reestablish liberty and democracy in the country.

The conference called for an urgent solution of the fratricidal conflict between Iran and Iraq, which endangers peace and stability in the Gulf region and harms the internal unity and cohesion of the Nonaligned Movement.

The heads of state expressed satisfaction with the holding in March 1983 of the seventh conference of the heads of state and government of nonaligned countries, which was one of the most successful conferences in the history of the movement, from which it emerged stronger, more united, and more capable of contributing positively toward the search for satisfactory solutions for the countless problems, conflicts, and tensions presently characterizing the world situation.

As the only alternative to generalized crises facing the nations of the world and the continuing deterioration of international relations, the heads of state reaffirmed the need for total respect for international legality, the strengthening of the effectiveness of the United Nations, the elimination of all forces of domination and exploitation, and the promotion of concrete measures with a view to developing South-South relations, establishing North-South dialogue, and creating indispensable [words indistinct] for the new international economic order.

Accordingly, the heads of state considered that it is important for the future of humanity to continue to strengthen the Nonaligned Movement in its internal function and in its role as a fundamental instrument for the promotion of peace, [words indistinct] of the dominated peoples and just and peaceful solutions to international problems and for a new world order. The heads of state considered that it is indispensable to strengthen economic cooperation between developing countries, whose (?objectives) have been defined [words indistinct] presented at the UN Conference for Trade and Development by the Group of 77. The heads of state considered that it is necessary to implement measures recommended in this document as a means to establish a more just and balanced new international economic order.

After examining the historical contribution [words indistinct] universal liberation movement by various peoples and political vanguards as well as the important role played [words indistinct], the heads of state reaffirmed the need to strengthen further relations in various fields and the need for the support and militant solidarity with the movements of national liberation and other progressive forces operating in Africa and all over the world against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, racism, racial discrimination, apartheid, and Zionism.

The conference decided at the end of its proceedings to congratulate the Republic of Cape Verde in the person of its president, His Excellency Aristides Maria Pereira, for his valuable contribution to strengthening relations of cooperation between the five in implementing the decisions taken at the third conference. It also hailed the devotion and militant [words indistinct] to the service of unity and solidarity within the group.

The heads of state of the People's Republic of Angola, the Republic of Cape Verde, the People's Republic of Mozambique, and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe expressed their profound gratitude to the people and Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau in the person of their president, His Excellency Joao Bernardo Vieira, for the warm hospitality accorded them and the climate of fraternity which greatly contributed to the success of the conference.

The conference adopted by acclamation the proposal presented by His Excellency Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the president of the People's Republic of Angola, to hold the fifth conference of the heads of state of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Sao Tome and Principe at Sao Tome city in 1984.

The fourth conference of the heads of state of the People's Republic of Angola, the Republic of Cape Verde, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the People's Republic of Mozambique, and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe took place in a frank and friendly atmosphere and was characterized by a total identity of viewpoints on issues debated, thus constituting an important stage in the strengthening of ties of fraternity and struggle binding the peoples of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Sao Tome and Principe and in the common path of these fraternal peoples toward peace and social progress. Issued in Bissau on 20 December 1983.

Dos Santos Speech at Summit

MB232007 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Speech by President Eduardo dos Santos of Angola on behalf of the heads of state at the summit meeting of the five Portuguese-speaking African countries held in Bissau from 18 to 20 December; date of speech not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] Your Excellency the president of the Republic of Guinea Bissau; distinguished heads of state of Cape Verde, Mozambique, and Sao Tome and Principe; comrades, ladies, and gentlemen: For a number of days Bissau city has been the focus of attention of our peoples and of all those throughout the world who are following with interest the development of the political situation on our continent. The distinguished representatives of Angola, Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe, and Mozambique have once again examined the most burning problems affecting their respective peoples and have established the necessary climate for the adoption of common political positions.

The generous residents of this city, as representatives of the people of Guinea-Bissau, have risen to the occasion of this important event. They have given us a warm fraternal welcome and expressed with great affection and joy their sentiments of friendship and their traditional hospitality to all the delegates.

On ending our fourth summit we must believe that the prospects of our work are increasingly higher. The establishments of mechanisms of multilateral cooperation in various fields that we each have been engaged in since our respective declarations of independence has enabled us to deepen the discussion of the common problems that we face on the basis of great mutual understanding and a spirit of militancy and find the right solutions to guarantee the strengthening of the traditional links of friendship and solidarity among our peoples. It is precisely based upon the solution of the specific problems being experienced by our countries in the political, military, economic, social, cultural, and other fields that, I am sure, we will continue to cement our unity in the fight for mutually advantageous and exemplary cooperation and for peace and social progress for our peoples. In all the phases of our struggle, the political consultations, the exchange of experience, and the analyses of points of view about tactics and strategy to face the attacks of common enemies have been means that have strengthened our combat solidarity and our internationalist stand, which has enabled us to achieve successes over colonialism and imperialism.

It was not only the official common language, the color of our skins, or African culture which united us in the framework of the Conference of Nation Organizations of the Portuguese Colonies [CONCP]. It is not merely these factors that unite us today. It was the political principles of a common policy which made it possible for CONCP to play a coordinating role in the victorious struggle that we waged against Portuguese colonialism.

Our common political principles applied to the specific reality of each of our countries constitute yet another basis for our cooperation in various fields and the coordination of our actions and outlining policies in the fight against the vestiges of colonialism and to resolve problems of underdevelopment. We are aware that our countries are situated in different regions and therefore face the specific problems of their respective areas. However, the political principles that link us are much stronger than the geography that separates us.

For example, Angola and Mozambique, which are situated in southern Africa, one of the world's tensest areas, are subject to an undeclared war of aggression waged by the racist South African regime, encouraged in various ways by several Western powers. In view of this, they cannot yet enjoy the necessary peace for national reconstruction. In this war, racist South Africa commits acts of aggression by using its regular army and the puppet gangs that it trains militarily and equips, arms, and transports in order to carry out terrorist and bandit activities against the civilian population and to destroy infrastructure and economic objectives. With these aggressive actions, the Pretoria racist regime intends to prevent and hamper the organization of activities in our territories and to prove to international public opinion that our parties are incapable of solving the problems of national reconstruction. The aim is to provoke discontent among the people, thus creating favorable conditions for the spread of subversion, with the aim of annihilating revolution and exerting political and economic domination over our peoples.

In order to face the war of aggression that has been forced upon us, we have been forced to shift a large part of our financial resources and labor force to the strengthening of our defensive capabilities. If these resources could be channeled to solving economic and social problems, they would certainly lead to a significant improvement in the living conditions of our peoples and greater participation in economic cooperation projects with the other countries of our continent.

We have always expressed our desire for peace. We wage war in order to defend ourselves from an unjust war that has been imposed upon us. In this regard, we have not spared any effort and we have undertaken specific diplomatic activities in the search of a just solution to the Namibia problem based on UN Resolution 435 and the abolition of apartheid.

We are aware that peace and economic development in southern Africa are closely linked. War is the main obstacle to overcome if our peoples are to be able to follow the paths of development and well-being.

Although they do not face any armed conflict, Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe and Guinea-Bissau have had to face natural disasters, such as drought, which constitutes a serious, difficult, and heavy burden inherited from colonialism, and has strongly influenced the fulfillment of their economic programs.

Despite these difficult problems which affect our countries, we face the future with optimism. We have confidence in the determination and strength of our people, and we are sure that under the leadership of our political vanguards we will achieve new successes and victories over imperialism, neocolonialism, and apartheid.

Your Excellencies the presidents of the republics of Cape Verde, Mozambique, and Sao Tome and Principe, I thank you for the honor that you have granted me so that on your behalf and my own I can express recognition and appreciation to his excellency the president of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the heroic Guinean people, and their party, for the conditions that they have created which have allowed us to enjoy happiness and fruitful work for the benefit of our common cause. I express ardent wishes of success and prosperity to the fraternal people of Guinea-Bissau.

Long live friendship and solidarity among our five peoples! Long live the people of Guinea-Bissau!

Long live proletarian internationalism! The struggle continues. Victory is certain.

LIBYA

More on Al-Qadhdhafi on Mubarak-'Arafat Meeting

LD231956 Tripoli JANA in English 1415 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Tripoli Rabi al Awal 17, Dec 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution condemned Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with the president of the Egyptian regime. In a speech delivered yesterday evening, to a women's gathering at the basic people's congress in central Tripoli, he said "The exciting thing today was 'Arafat's meeting with the Egyptian President. It is known that Egypt, after it recognized the enemy, was blacklisted, according to the decision of the Arab summit meeting in Baghdad and was boycotted by the Arabs till it withdraws its recognition of the Zionist enemy".

The leader explained that the problem between us and the Israelis is the Palestinian problem. The issue of Palestine's occupation. If Yasir 'Arafat is the defender of the Palestinian cause and meets with the Egyptian president who recognizes what is called Israel, then everything has turned upside down.

The leader posed a few questions saying, if 'Arafat the Palestinian and representative of the Palestinian cause makes it up with the president of a regime which recognizes the enemy, what are we the rest of the Arabs to do? Aren't we all working for the Palestinian cause?

He added when Abu 'Ammar no longer represents the Palestinian people and Palestinian cause and renounces the Palestinian cause and the Arab fold. [sentence as received] He is considered a traitor like the rulers of Egypt hence it is of no consequence if a traitor meet a traitor, in agreement with the enemy and having sold out the cause. If Abu 'Ammar is still patriotic and not a traitor and he is still the defender of the Palestinian cause, this means boycotting Egypt. It becomes meaningless if each one of us went to meet Husni Mubarak.

The leader questioned further "[quotation mark as received] Why did we boycott Egypt... [JANA ellipses] We boycotted Egypt for Palestine...[JANA ellipses] and now the leader of Palestine is in Egypt.

What do we do then? We do no longer have any justification for boycotting Egypt, as the representative of the Palestinian cause, for whom we boycotted Egypt, is in Egypt, meeting the president of the Egyptian regime.

Jordanian-Egyptian Economic Agreement Protested

LD261405 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Jamahiriyah: The secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison this morning summoned the ambassador of Jordan to the Jamahiriyah, to protest Jordan's action, which departs from the resolutions of the Baghdad summit, signing of an economic agreement with the government of the Egyptian regime which recognizes the Zionist enemy.

The secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison asked the ambassador of Jordan to convey to his government the Jamahiriyah's protest at this action which raises questions for Arab governments. The action is considered to be unjustified violation of their decisions at the Baghdad summit conference.

JANA Reports Kreisky's Arrival in Tripoli 26 Dec

LD270931 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Tripoli 27 Dec (JANA) — Former chancellor of Austria Bruno Kreisky arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

He was welcomed at Tripoli international airport by the Assistant secretary general of the People's General Congress, the secretary of the People's Committee for Communications and the brother secretary for energy.

MAURITANIA

Moroccan Minister Delivers King Hassan Message

AB261720 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Late this morning, the head of state received El-Ansar Mohamed, Moroccan minister of posts and telecommunications and special envoy from King Hassan II. During the audience which was attended by Dr Mohamed Salem Zein, minister of information and telecommunications, the Moroccan envoy conveyed a message from King Hassan II to the head of state. After the audience Mr el-Ansar said that the message which he conveyed to the head of state is related to the preparation of the forthcoming summit of the Islamic countries to be held in Casablanca on 16 January.

AFP on Meeting

PA270435 Paris AFP in English 0405 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Nouakchott, Dec 27 (AFP) — Moroccan Telecommunications Minister Mohamed el-Ansar conferred here Monday with Mauritanian President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala in the first contact between Lt-Col Haydala and a Moroccan envoy since the two countries broke off diplomatic relations nearly three years ago.

The Mauritanian leader announced last month that he would recognise the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic of the Nationalist Polisario guerrillas fighting Morocco's eight-year occupation of formerly Spanish Western Sahara if Morocco had not by then organised a self-determination referendum there in line with resolutions of the Organisation of African Unity. Mauritania initially occupied Western Sahara in conjunction with Morocco, but in 1978 made its peace with the guerrillas and withdrew. Col Haydala broke off relations with Rabat in March 1981 after an attempted coup by a group which he said was backed by Morocco.

Goukouni Visits, Meets With Haydala 22 Dec

AB221955 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Goukouni Oueddei, former Chadian head of state, this morning made a technical stopover in Nouakchott where he was received in audience by the chairman of the CMSN and head of state in the presence of Major Ahmed Ould Minnih, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. He was welcomed at the airport by Mohamed Abdahman Ould Seibo, permanent under secretary to the chairman of the CMSN and head of state. Goukouni Oueddei came to inform the head of state about his views before the Chadian national reconciliation conference. He gave Mohamed Abdalah Ould Deze details on the talks he had with the head of state.

[Begin Goukouni recording] President Khouna Ould Haydala is the current chairman of the Saharan countries and as such the OAU has entrusted him with the Chadian issue to find ways and means for some agreement. In this regard, I came here today, a few days before the meeting in Addis Ababa, to talk with the head of state and take some wise advice from him, which will probably enable us to find salutary solutions in Addis Ababa. We have identical views and were very satisfied with his position on the Chadian issue. We absolutely agree with his views and will scrupulously take into account the advice he gave us. [end recording]

SUDAN

Numayri Greets New USSR Ambassador in Khartoum

JN242007 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1745 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Dec (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has asserted that the development of relations among all countries is based on mutual respect, noninterference in one another's affairs, and real respect for national sovereignty, and that this is the basis for Sudan's relations with all the world's countries. This came in the president's speech during his reception of the credentials of Yevgeniy Vasilyevich Musiyko, Soviet ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Sudan, in the People's palace this morning.

Addressing the ambassador, President Numayri added: On the basis of this concept, we hope that our relations with all the world's countries, including your friendly country, will expand. He also explained: The firm bases of Sudan's foreign policy depends on the principles of respect for sovereignty, noninterference in others' affairs, and continued efforts to set up and develop our relations with all the world's countries regardless of their systems.

President Numayri also pointed out that Sudan is working very hard to remove the causes of war and tension and to achieve world security and peace, limiting the arms race, and refraining from the use of force to settle differences because Sudan firmly believes in the UN Charter and the nonalignment principles. He also said that through its effective role in the African arena, and proceeding from the firm principles of its foreign policy, Sudan seeks to liberate the continent from all kinds of exploitation and the remnants of colonialism in southern Africa, and to prevent all forms of foreign interference in the continent. He also added that Sudan stresses its role in the Arab arena and assumes its responsibilities in a continued effort to reach a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East issue.

His excellency the ambassador also made a similar speech in which he said that Soviet foreign policy is based on a complete commitment to the principles of justice, respect for states' sovereignty, noninterference in domestic affairs, promotion of relations of friendship and cooperation with all states, preservation of world peace and international accord, and the struggle against colonialism, racism, and all forms of persecution. He added that the most important objective of the Soviet Union is to stop the danger of a nuclear war, and that the Soviet Union has always supported the achievement of a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East issue, extended all sorts of support for the Arab countries in their struggle against the Israeli enemy, exerted efforts for the sake of restoring the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and extended assistance to Africa so that it can build its national economy and bring about peace and stability.

He also said that relations of cooperation and friendship between the Soviet Union and Sudan have recently increased for the sake of the mutual interests of the two countries and peoples and that the Soviet Union is following the path that will lead to the improvement of these relations.

Foreign Minister Cables Egyptian Counterpart

JN251155 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1035 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Dec (SUNA) — Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak, minister of foreign affairs, has sent the following cable to Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister:

The Sudanese people and government have followed the news on Egypt's reception of Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat with rejoicing and pride. This is considered a new and unique phase in the record of Egyptian policy, which abides by clear stands on the general Arab issues and the Palestine cause — the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Egypt's contributions and sacrifices for the Palestinian people and their legitimate leadership stem from Egypt's conviction of its stand toward the just Palestine cause, and from its readiness to make more sacrifices to support this cause. The enemy acknowledged this stand before the friend, and foreigners praised it before the brothers.

As I express my pride in fraternal Egypt's lofty stand on the Palestinian leadership, I support you and hope that we will succeed in our efforts to regain the Palestinian rights and to solve the cause peacefully despite the falsehoods and claims of arrogant persons.

ETHIOPIA

Nearly 11,000 Refugees Repatriated From Djibouti

AB230908 Paris AFP in English 0834 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Addis Ababa, Dec 23 (AFP) — Nearly 11,000 Ethiopian refugees have returned home from Djibouti since a repatriation operation began for the exiles early this year, a UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) official said here today. The official, Nicholas Bwakira, chief of the UNHCR'S Africa regional bureau here, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that 7,645 families, 10,672 people in all had been repatriated so far. This figure represents nearly a third of the estimated 35,000 Ethiopian exiles in the neighboring Horn of Africa state. They fled there in the wake of the 1977-78 Ogaden war between Ethiopia and Somalia.

The repatriation operation began amid controversty early this year under a tripartite agreement signed between the UNHCR, the Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission and the Djibouti Government. Somalia and some international humanitarian organizations charged immediately afterwards that the refugees were being sent home against their will, allegations that were denied by the accord's signatories.

Mr Bwakira said today that the partners were all "fully satisfied" with the operation and that they hoped its success would constitute a "positive precedent" for similar programs in future. Such an approach is generally considered to be new for the UNHCR, whose mandate is to assist refugees in their countries of asylum. Mr Bwakira said Ethiopian authorities had already advised the UNHCR that the amnesty law promulgated for the refugess in Djibouti had been extended for another year to ensure the fullest repatriation operation.

The agency had initially earmarked 8.2 million dollars for the program, and had appealed for 6 million of that amount in cash. Nearly 3 million dollars had since been made available by the Governments of West Germany, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, Britain, the United States and Canada, he said. In addition, the World Food Program has reported to have given food rations for 10,000 people.

The UNHCR official added that the refugees, who were being cared for in eight shelters in eastern Hararghe Province, had already started building their own homes. They were also being supplied with relief items and self-sufficiency packages to aid in their rehabilitation, he said.

TANZANIA

Trade Agreement With Zimbabwe Effective 1 Jan

EA231535 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1900 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Harare: A Zimbabwe-Tanzania trade plan adopted by the two countries' Joint Commission of Cooperation last month will become operational from 1 January next year. A government statement released in Harare today and confirmed by the Tanzanian minister of trade, Ndugu Mustafa Nyanganyi, in Dar es Salaam today, said the Zimbabwe Banking Corporation and the National Bank of Commerce [NBC] had already opened reciprocal accounts for the purpose. The statement advises Zimbabwean exporters interested in exporting their goods to Tanzania under the plan to make statistic applications [as heard] through the Zimbabwe Banking Corporation to the export payment section of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe.

It added that where commodities for export normally required an export license or permit, such authorization should be applied for through relevant ministries. The statement said Tanzania's importers of Zimbabwean goods would open letters of credit denominated in Zimbabwe dollars with the appropriate branches of the NBC where they maintain their accounts. It said the NBC would then advance the letters of credit to the Zimbabwe exporters directly through the Zimbabwe Banking Corporation.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Comoros Islands

EA261129 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 0700 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Ndugu Salim Ahmad Salim left Dar es Salaam for the Comoros Islands today, leading a six-man delegation. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the visit is at the invitation of the Comoros Government and its purpose is to seek ways to strengthen bilateral relations and various forms of cooperation.

UGANDA

Foreign Affairs Minister on Cooperation With Cuba

EA201546 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 20 Dec 1983

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Picho Owiny, has said cooperation between Uganda and Cuba is an important aspect of South-South cooperation. The minister was speaking at a luncheon held in honour of a Cuban economic delegation held at the Uganda Club. He told the delegation that the meeting between Presidents Obote and Castro of Cuba in March this year during the Nonaligned summit meeting in New Delhi, India, marks a very important basis for cooperation between Uganda and Cuba.

The leader of the Cuban delegation, Mr (Santiago Riera), said his delegation came to Uganda on the understanding of fraternal relations between Uganda and Cuba. He thanked the government for giving the delegation the opportunity to meet ministers and other senior government officials. He praised the dialogue and cooperation existing between the two countries and pointed out that his delegation had come to discuss bilateral issues affecting the third world. He made a plea for the strengthening of the South-South cooperation.

The luncheon was also attended by the Cuban charge d'affaires in Uganda, Mr (Rudolfo Sarafino), Ambassador Kamuntu of the office of the president and other senior government officers from the ministries of agriculture, forestry and finance.

CAMEROON

Biya Sole Candidate for 1984 Presidential Polls

AB261945 Yaounde Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] The head of state, His Excellency Paul Biya, has been declared the lone candidate for next year's presidential polls with no challenger at the close of candidates listings. A circular by the minister of territorial administration also prescribed colors for ballot papers and campaign slogans. The white ballot papers will carry the emblem of the Cameroon National Union Party, the sign of the rising sun. Campaigns for the presidential polls open on Friday, 30 December, coordinated by constituted electoral committees.

CHAD

Habre Shows 'Readiness' To Meet With Opposition

AB241346 Paris AFP in French 1232 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 24 Dec (AFP) — A few days before the projected date of the Addis Ababa meeting on the reconciliation among Chadians, the Ndjamena authorities have reaffirmed their opposition to any negotiation grouping the country's political and military factions. But they have expressed their "readiness" to attend a meeting between President Hissein Habre's government and "opposition members."

At a rally held Saturday in the Chadian capital, Dr Yangalbe, the secretary general of the FAN People's Committee, indicated that "the Chadian Government will go to Addis Ababa to hold talks with opponents," adding that "bringing back factions to Ndjamena was ruled out."

A roundtable talk on reconciliation in Chad is scheduled to take place on 9 January 1984 in the Ethiopian capital, the OAU headquarters.

Goukouni Discusses West, Central Africa Tour

AB232140 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio
in French 1800 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Summary from poor reception] "Goukouni Oueddei, comrade president of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT], is back home after a trip that took him successively to central and west Africa. From Brazzaville to Nouakchott through Cotonou, the trip of the comrade chairman of the GUNT was incontestably a positive test that confirmed the respect that the GUNT and the Chadian revolution enjoy in the hearts of the friendly progressive states on the continent. In the four African revolutionary capitals, the comrade head of state and his delegation received an extremely enthusiastic welcome. The comrade chairman of the GUNT was received with all the honors befitting his rank and held talks with his illustrious brothers and great comrades Denis Sassou-Nguesso of the People's Republic of Congo, Mathieu Kerekou of the People's Republic of Benin, Moussa Traore of Mali, and President Khouna Ould Haydala of Mauritania. He also held talks in these capitals with Chadian refugees, exiles, and students, as well as other members of the Chadian community."

"President Goukouni Oueddei also held talks with Mozambique President Samora Machel, who was also present in the Beninese capital." After this fruitful trip, the GUNT chairman was kind enough to give his impressions to Radio Bardai:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Comrade President, you are back from an African tour that took you successively to Brazzaville, Cotonou, Bamako, and Nouakchott. How did you find the reception which those 4 African capitals gave you and your delegation? What lessons can you draw from your talks with the heads of state of the countries visited?

[Goukouni] Yes, as you said, we went to Brazzaville, Cotonou, Bamako, and we also made a stopover in Nouakchott. In all the countries visited, we were received very fraternally and very warmly by the people, the Chadian communities, and the authorities."

"We were impressed by the way the Chadian communities are organized in the first two countries visited." "I will also take this opportunity to mention the meeting I had with Comrade Samora Machel during his visit to Cotonou. I met Samora Machel, whom I consider a great comrade in struggle, and we discussed the future of our two countries in the presence of President Mathieu Kerekou, who is one of the most fervent believers in the Chadian cause."

[Unidentified reporter] "There are certainly many Chadian refugees and students in the countries you visited. Comrade President, you must have had a dialogue with them. What message did you relay to them on behalf of the GUNT and Chadian revolution, and also, what were the grievances of our brothers living temporarily in those brotherly states?"

[Goukouni] "In Brazzaville, there is an organization of the Chadian communities. This organization has been able to gather all the Chadians living there." "We held a meeting with a delegation from this community. We also held talks with a delegation of students living in Benin." "They did not have any grievances to present to me." "I also noted that we had underestimated the number of Chadians living in these countries." "During my visit to Bamako, we held lengthy talks with a student delegation and gave them advice."

"Concerning the stand of the FAN toward joining the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa [UDEAC], I think this is the intention expressed by the GUNT during the Libreville summit. In Libreville, I expressed the desire to join the organizations in the subregion."

[Unidentified reporter] "Comrade President, news reaching us from the areas under foreign occupation say that the French troops are continuing to ensure the training and the provision of weapons to the troops of Hissein Habre. What do you think of these maneuvers?"

[Goukouni] "By going to Chad, the French troops turned themselves into a buffer force because they did not come to Chad at the request of Chadians but at the request of Hissein Habre. You also know the role that the Americans are playing in our country." "I am therefore calling on all progressive countries in the region to closely follow what is happening here." [end recording]

Rebels Said Rejoining Government Forces

JN241152 Khartoum SUNA in English 1025 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 24 Dec (SUNA) — A thousand rebel forces in southern Chad have voluntarily decided to return to the Chadian National Armed Forces ranks, SUNA learned. A highly placed Chadian authoritative sources said that arrangements are being made to provide these soldiers with uniforms, salaries and other relevant necessities prior to joining the regular army.

A 15-man military delegation opposed to the Libyan-backed rebel Abdel Gader Kamogie [spelling as received] has been making contacts recently with the central government authorities, where an agreement for their forces' return to the ranks was reached, the source said. He added that peace and stability prevail in the south and the government is in full control.

CONGO

Assembly Adopts National Budget for 1984

AB260900 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The 10th budgetary session of the People's National Assembly will officially close this afternoon. The closing ceremony, which will take place at 1600 at the Brazzaville town hall building, will be presided over, as usual, by President Colonel Dennis Sassou-Nguesso. During this 10th session, the deputies adopted the 1984 national budget which stood at 412,421,419,000 CFA francs [figure as heard]. While elaborating this budget, the difficult international economic situation and the policy of austerity it deserves in order to ensure the internal and external credibility of the country were taken into account.

ZAIRE

IMF, Paris Club Debt Rescheduling Lauded

AB260925 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] All things considered, the year 1984 appears to be starting out on a good note for Zaire's economy. In fact, there has been a double Christmas gift from both Paris and Washington — from the Paris Club and the IMF, respectively. The Paris Club has agreed to reschedule Zaire's external debts. This means Zaire will now pay its external debts in 11 years with a 5-year grace period. And from Washington, the board of governors of the IMF has granted Zaire a $350 million loan. This will enable the Executive Council to vigorously continue its efforts to fix the country's economy. Let us now listen to a partial report of the weekly meeting of the Executive Council reported by Citizen Sakombi Inongo, state commissioner for information, mobilization, propaganda, and political rallying, announcing the good news:

[Begin recording] The first state commissioner announced to members of the Executive Council important news from Washington and Paris. From Washington, it was learned that the board of governors of the International Monetary Fund has approved in its entirety the request for a loan made by Zaire, and the IMF has granted $350 million to Zaire. From Paris, Zaire received from the Paris Club an extensive rescheduling of Zaire's external debts. This rescheduling has been granted for a period of 11 years with a grace period of 5 years. Again from Paris, concerning the consultative group on Zaire and under the auspices of the World Bank, the said group adopted the interim rehabilitation program for 1983-85 which was presented by the Executive Council and granted Zaire $290 million for the financing of public investments contained in that program. [end recording]

Additional Aid Pledged

AB231037 Paris AFP in French 0734 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Paris, 23 Dec (AFP) — Namwisi Ma Koyi, Zairian state commissioner for finance and the budget, said on Thursday evening that donor countries and organizations have pledged to grant Zaire $290 million worth of aid for the implementation of its economic recovery program. At the end of the meeting of the World Bank's Consultative Group held on Wednesday and Thursday in Paris, the participants — countries and international financing organizations — reviewed Zaire's present situation and its economic prospects. They pledged to increase their financial aid to enable Zaire to bridge the "gap" in the implementation of the 1983-85 "economic recovery program" which focuses on agriculture, transportation, and energy and mines.

Namwisi Ma Koyi expressed satisfaction that the "scenario" created by Zaire and donor countries and organizations was successful. The IMF Council agreed in principle to open a stand-by credit and grant offset credit facilities both amounting to $350 million. The decision will be announced after the meeting of the World Bank Consultative Group in Paris. That meeting is preceded by the meeting of the Paris Club, which was held last Monday and Tuesday and which resulted in the rescheduling of Zaire's public debts.

The Zairian minister specified that the Paris Club dealt with the rescheduling of $1.6 billion. The creditors agreed that Zaire should pay back $1.2 billion over a period of 11 years with a 5-year grace period, with the debt service for next year totalling $360 million.

Namwisi Ma Koyi pointed out that there was an "excellent atmosphere" at the two meetings, which according to him was a "departure" from the atmosphere prevailing usually in such meetings. He also stressed that on the home front Zaire had taken very harsh measures, including the devaluation of its currency, which has fallen from 6 zaires to almost 30 zaires to the dollar.

The Consultative Group comprises mainly representatives from major European countries including France, Belgium, Canada, the United States, and Japan, as well as the EEC, the IMF, and the African Development Bank.

A communique issued at the end of the meeting stated that the participants approved the general priorities of the Zairian program which, in their opinion, "deserves active support" both internally and externally. The communique adds that they also agreed that Zaire should make every possible effort to ensure the successful implementation of the program.

The Consultative Group will meet again during the first 6 months of 1985. Meanwhile, the Coordinating Committee of External Resources, in which the members of the group have been invited to take part and which has been revived by the Zairian Government in order to draw up a new investment program for the public sector as well as to closely coordinate the economic policies and their implementation, will hold a meeting in Kinshasa early in February 1984.

Czechoslovakia 'Ready To Develop Cooperation'

AB221655 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1330 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Kinshasa, 21 December (AZAP) — "Czechoslovakia is ready to develop cooperation with Zaire that would be mutually advantageous in all fields," said Vasil Choma, charge d'affaires of that country in Zaire after a meeting on Wednesday with Citizen Kimasi Mativiku Basaula, secretary of state for foreign affairs. On this occasion, the Czech diplomat conveyed a message from Bohuslav Chnoupek, minister of foreign affairs of Czechoslovakia, to his Zairian counterpart, Citizen Umba di-Lutete. This message, Mr Choma explained, expresses his country's desire to cooperate with Zaire, whose help given for the liberation of Czech nationals recently taken hostage by the UNITA in Angola is greatly appreciated by his country.

Merchant Marine Agreement Signed With USSR

AB260940 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] The Zairian and Soviet people have decided to combine their experience in the merchant marine field. This is what is contained in a document signed yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation following the fifth session of the Zaire-Soviet Union Joint Cooperation Commission. For 2 days, Zairian and Soviet experts examined various issues concerning the merchant marine. The secretary of state for cooperation who led the Zairian delegation approved of the quality of training given to Zairian citizens in the USSR in this field. The Soviet delegation, which was led by the deputy minister of maritime fleet, Mr Beletskiy, expressed admiration for the positive steps of Zairians toward manning their own merchant marine and the quality of cooperation in this field between Zaire and the Soviet Union.

BENIN

Goukouni Meets Exiles; Habre UDEAC Move Assailed

AB230722 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Comrade President Goukouni Oueddei, president of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT], continues his visit to Benin. The comrade president is thus taking advantage of his presence in the Beninese capital not only to hold talks with the leader of the Beninese revolution, President Kerekou, but is also meeting with members of the Chadian Embassy and the Chadian community — refugees, exiles and students.

In fact, it is known that a large number of Chadian students are studying at the university in Benin. Like their counterparts in Brazzaville, these students did not hesitate to show their attachment to the GUNT. Also, the comrade president can surely meet with ambassadors of progressive friendly countries accredited to Benin -- Algeria, Cuba, North Korea, the USSR, and so on. The diplomats whose countries politically support the GUNT will not fail to reaffirm their active support to the legitimate government and the Chadian revolution.

At the same time, in Bangui, where the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa [UDEAC] has just admitted Equatorial Guinea as its fifth member, the application for readmission illegally and abusively submitted on behalf of Chad by the leader of the Northern Armed Forces Command Council [OCFAN] did not come as a surprise. This application is not new and therefore does not surprise anybody. Before the imperialist plot which enabled the FAN to enter Ndjamena, the GUNT, it will be remembered, had already undertaken the necessary steps toward that end. In fact, the application document prepared and presented by the GUNT to the UDEAC at that time is the same as the one which has just been represented with the sole aim of diverting international and national opinion.

By limiting itself to the procedure of admission in order not to readmit Chad too hastily, the UDEAC was properly cautious toward a country ravaged by civil war. The haste with which the FAN delegation wanted our country to be readmitted into the economic union as soon as possible was suddenly confronted with the realism shown by leaders of the CAR. In fact, and we cannot repeat this enough, Chad can reasonably and effectively resume its place within the economic groupings in Africa — either regional or outside Africa — only after its national reconciliation has been achieved. Indeed, because of the climate of insecurity prevailing in the country, and especially in the economic sector in the southern part of the country, no project can be operational. Therefore, it is important first of all to settle pending political issues before trying to weave economic relations with other sister countries of the region.

In the same way, efforts being made by humanitarian organizations to attenuate the sufferings of the Chadian people are no more effective than shooting guns into the water. This food aid only helps the FAN's preparation toward war, rather than really helping the people hit by the drought. Thus, the recent delivery of food by the World Food Program will not benefit the civilians but will instead fatten the cannon fodder of the FAN and Zairian soldiers.

Having said this, and to come back to the "Operation Return to UDEAC" about which the Ndjamena group is making a lot of noise, it is proper to point out the contradiction in the demagogic application made by the chief of the OCFAN and the militarist maneuvers of the imperialist and reactionary forces on the field: In fact, we have reliable information from our permanent correspondent in Ndjamena that in Moussoro, to mention only this town, military training of imperialist forces is being intensified. French specialists are teaching their FAN pupils to handle arms such as [words indistinct]. This proves that the French double standard toward the Chadian civil war and toward national reconciliation continues. This contradictiory attitude of France only serves to intensify our determination and vigilance in order to prevent any cowardly aggression by the imperialist and reactionary forces.

GHANA

Soviet Experts To Help With Concrete Factory

AB260935 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Five Soviet experts are expected in Ghana early next year to draw up a rehabilitation program for the prefab concrete factory. This was disclosed to newsmen in Accra by the deputy secretary for works and housing, Steve Akuffo, on his arrival from Moscow where he led a two-man government delegation. He said theshipment of the plant and equipment for the factory are expected in the country in the early quarter of next year. He said agreement was also reached for the shipment of building materials to enable the factory to complete six blocks of flats in Tema community, 11 which were started in 1978. Mr Akuffo further announced that 30 Ghanaians are going to be trained in the Soviet Union to improve their skills. An agreement between the two countries was entered into last September under which the Soviet Union will help in the rehabilitation of the prefab concrete factory.

GUINEA

Dos Santos Holds Press Conference in Conakry

AB222000 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1945 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos, who arrived yesterday afternoon at 1650 in our capital, held private talks this morning beginning at 1000 with President Ahmed Sekou Toure, leader of the revolution, in the banquet hall at the People's Palace. Earlier, President dos Santos, accompanied by the leader of the revolution, visited the Palais des Nations and the OAU village.

After the high-level talks, President dos Santos left for Conakry-Gbessia International Airport [words indistinct]. Just before his departure, the leader of the Angolan popular revolution answered questions from the national press.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified reporter] As you know, it was decided unanimously at the 19th OAU summit in Addis Ababa that the 20th summit of our organization will be held as scheduled in Conakry in 1984. You also know that African people are waiting in the hope that the organization will overcome the impasse in order to rise again to a new life and work dynamically and efficiently toward the promotion of our continental unity. In this connection, we believe that each leader, and each state must do something to this effect. Mr President, what does your country, Angola, plan to give to the African people? And what does Angola think about the 20th summit in Conakry?

[Dos Santos — in Portuguese followed by French translation] First of all, we hope that the 20th summit will effectively be held in Conakry as it was decided by the 19th summit of the OAU. We know that there are problems and difficulties that caused the failure of the 19th summit in Tripoli. But in any case we believe in the friendship and the spirit of unity among African peoples and their governments. So we think that the compromise reached at the 19th summit in Addis Ababa will be respected and that the 20th summit will be effectively held in Conakry. We hope that the 20th summit will be held in an atmosphere of brotherhood, friendship, and active solidarity. In fact, the anti-imperialist and anticolonialist struggle remains the foundation of our continental organization in its struggle for the total liberation of our continent.

[Second unidentified reporter] Mr President, you have just paid your first friendly, working visit to Guinea. During your stay, you met the Guinean people, and this morning you held a working session with the supreme leader of our revolution, Comrade President Ahmed Sekou Toure, and his delegation. As you are about to leave Conakry, could you tell us, Mr President, what you are bringing back from the Revolutionary People's Republic of Guinea? What can you tell us on our bilateral relations?

[Dos Santos] First of all, we are going away with a memorable impression of the friendly way in which the Angolan delegation and myself have been received by the friendly Guinean people and their leader, Comrade President Ahmed Sekou Toure. We have felt human warmth and a revolutionary reception here. As we are leaving Conakry, we feel strengthened by the support and the solidarity shown by Guinea to the Angolan people in their struggle. We discussed matters of common interest and our ties of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation. These ties have been strengthened. We feel, however, that in the future contacts will be accelerated in order to develop further the cooperation between our two parties and governments. [end recording]

GUINEA-BISSAU

Currency Devaluation, Salary Hikes Reported

AB250740 Paris AFP in English 0709 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Bissau, Dec 25 (AFP) — Guinea-Bissau devalued its currency, the peso, by half Saturday and announced a 40 percent pay rise for civil servants and steps to privatise domestic trade, hitherto under state control. The government also announced 30-40 percent increases in the price of groundnuts, coconuts and cashews in a bid to stimulate farm production and discourage smuggling.

All the steps were recommended by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which recently said Guinea-Bissau was in a disastrous economic state. The reforms will facilitate the granting of various international loans to plug its some 30 million dollar budget deficit and its 38 million dollar trade gap, as well as the rescheduling of its 184 million dollar foreign debt. The debt is 104 percent of the west African state's gross domestic product.

LIBERIA

Israeli Envoy Visits Ministries; Aid Requested

AB221637 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Israel's ambassador to Liberia, Gavri'el Gavri'eli, yesterday visited two government ministries here in Monrovia. At the information ministry, Ambssador Gavri'eli informed Minister Naigow about his embassy's plan to provide movie films on the development of his country, which he said would assist Liberians to learn about the State of Israel. Minister Naigow welcomed Ambssador Gavri'eli to his ministry and assured him of his ministry's cooperation in disseminating information on government policies.

During the ambssador's visit to the agriculture ministry, the Israeli envoy was briefed about the agricultural activities in the country by Agriculture Minister Joseph Boakai. Minister Boakai then appealed to the Israeli Government for more aid for the development of human resources in the agricultural sector.

MALI

Goukouni Departs for Algiers Via Nouakchott

AB221635 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Goukouni Oueddei, chairman of the GUNT, left Bamako this morning for Algiers. On his way there, he is expected to stop over in Nouakchott. He was seen off at the airport by Mohamed Oum Ag Hamani, Central Executive Bureau secretary for external relations, and Alioune Blondin Beye, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation.

NIGERIA

Foreign Policy, Ties With Israel Addressed

AB261944 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The director general of Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, has called for a redirection of Nigeria's foreign policy to cater for the neighboring states rather than Africa in general. The neighboring states, he said, are Chad, Cameroon, and the ECOWAS. Speaking in a radio program — the newsmaker — the director general said there was a lot of vagueness and lack of precision in the policy which makes Africa the centerpiece of the country's foreign policy.

Commenting on reopening relations with Israel, Dr Gambari said time is not ripe for Nigeria to resume negotiations or reestablish diplomatic relations. He disagreed with the free arguments being put forward by proponents of reestablishment of relations with Israel. Their arguments were based on Egypt's reestablishment of relations with Israel, while others — on economic and technological stands. Dr Gambari said that Israel has not withdrawn from the occupied territories and did not even come near to solving the Palestinians questions.

SENEGAL

Socialist Party Congress Set for 21-22 Jan

AB221630 Dakar Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Socialist Party met at the National Assembly yesterday under the chairmanship of Abdou Diouf, secretary general of the party. During this meeting, the Political Bureau heard a report by the political secretary, Moustapha Niasse, on preparations for the extraordinary congress of the party scheduled to take in place in Dakar in January 1984.

After examination of this report, the Political Bureau of the Socialist Party set the date for this extraordinary congress: Saturday and Sunday 21-22 January 1984. After expressing satisfaction with the decision to hold the congress, which is expected to establish the avant garde role of the Socialist Party on the Senegalese political scene in the framework of integral democracy and a multiparty system, the Political Bureau of the Socialist Party renewed its total support for the actions of the secretary general of the party, President Abdou Diouf, both in Senegal and abroad, and ensured him of its active support for the continuation of his policies at the head of the Senegalese state for the benefit of the people of our country and for his continuous influence.

The Political Bureau of the Socialist Party has set up an organizing committee for the congress and adopted practical measures for the success of its congress. In this regard, the Political Bureau of the Socialist Party has ordered activists at all levels to mobilize themselves for the success of the congress in all fields.

Referring to the recent events in Ziguinchor, the Political Bureau of the Socialist Party reasserted its unflinching support for the firm measures adopted by the government for the scrupulous respect of territorial integrity and for the preservation of the national unity of Senegal in accordance with the statement made by the head of state on 20 December at the cabinet meeting.

Government Obtains Rescheduling of Foreign Debt

AB221855 Paris AFP in French 1359 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Paris, 22 Dec (AFP) — Senegal has obtained the rescheduling of its external debt for the fiscal year 1982-1983 for a period of 9 years with a 4-year grace period by the 11 Western creditor countries which met on Wednesday within the framework of the "Paris Club," an official communique announced.

Senegalese Minister of Economy and Finance Mamadou Toure told AFP that the arrangement applies to principle payments and payment of interest due from between 1 July 1983 and 30 June 1984, that is, about $75 million (30 billion CFA francs). This is the third consecutive readjustment of Senegal's debt following those approved for the 1981-82 (75 million) and 1982-83 ($87 million) fiscal years. Mr Toure said the total external debt of his country was nearly $1.2 billion, that is, 550 billion CFA francs. After stressing that his country had been severely affected by several years of drought, he said that the "end of the crisis" would not come before 1986. The officials representing the creditor countries "were impressed by the recovery efforts being undertaken by the Senegalese Government," and they considered it timely to "make a positive contribution towards the improvement of perspectives for external payments by this country in order to facilitate the recovery of its economy," said the "Paris Club" communique. "They also noted with satisfaction the drawing up by this government of an economic and financial program that is backed by an IMF confirmation agreement." On 19 November 1983, the IMF granted a 12-month loan of $66 million (27 billion CFA francs) to Senegal, whose debt towards the IMF is $166 million (67 billion CFA francs).

According to Mr Toure, the meeting of the "Paris Club" was held "in an excellent atmosphere" and the creditor countries showed their "understanding" of the need to "help Senegal find permanent solutions to the structural problems facing its economy." "I hope," he stressed, "that there will be no more "Paris Club" meetings on Senegal."

On 18 January 1984, Senegal is expected to sign an agreement in Paris with international banks belonging to the "London Club" on the 7-year rescheduling of the principle reimbursements due to be made between 1 July 1981 and 30 June 1984; that is $90 million (37 billion CFA francs), the minister confirmed, adding that "the banks were severe, too severe" in a negotiation that lasted 2 years. "It is absurd to squeeze the last penny from indebted countries and prevent them from recovering and benefiting from the international recovery," Mr Toure added. Last summer, the Senegalese Government strengthened its austerity policy that was adopted 3 years ago by deciding to increase the prices of several essential commodities (rice, oil, sugar, petroleum products) and to slow down the rate of public spending.

The "Paris Club" meeting, which was chaired by Jean-Claude Trichet, deputy director of the French treasury, was attended by France, the main creditor, the FRG, Belgium, Canada, Spain, the United States, Italy, Norway, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland.

Moroccan Official Brings Message From King Hassan

AB262215 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1600 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Dakar, 25 Dec (PANA/AZAP) — Deye Ould Sidi Baba, chairman of the Moroccan House of Representatives, arrived in Dakar on Saturday, on the first stage of a long tour that will take him to several African capitals. Ould Sidi Baba, who is carrying messages from King Hassan II to his Senegalese, Guinea, Upper Voltan, Malian and Niger counterparts, was met on arrival in Dakar by Habib Thiam, speaker of the Senegalese National Assembly and Moustapha Niasse, Senegalese minister of state in charge of foreign affairs.

In a press interview, the Moroccan envoy explained that his visit falls within the framework of steps being taken by his country in all capitals of the Muslim world to prepare for the forthcoming Islamic Conference summit, scheduled to take place in Casablanca in January 1984.

Asked about the impossibility of holding a referendum on self-determination in Western Sahara before the end of the month, as was recommended by the last OAU summit, Ould Sidi Baba recalled Morocco's readiness to accept all conditions set up by the pan-African organization and the United Nations concerning the control and the supervision of such a referendum. He considered, however, that "it should be possible to organize such a referendum without any prior conditions" and without giving a small number of "separatists the importance we and other African countries contest," he said. Concerning the deadline fixed by the OAU, which will expire in a week's time, he added that Morocco was still waiting for the decision the OAU's Wisemen Committee should take to end this deplorable conflict.

TOGO

National Assembly Approves 1984 Draft Budget

AB241155 Lome Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The longest-ever National Assembly session ended its deliberations yesterday at the Party Hall in Lome. It took the session 2 months and 19 days to exhaust the important issues submitted to it for examination. The deliberations mainly centered on the examination of the general code of taxation and the 1984 draft budget. After detailed examination marked by lively discussions, our parliamentarians unanimously approved the budget fixed at 76 billion 790.5 million CFA francs, a 1.3-percent increase over the preceding year's budget.

FRG Delegation in Lome To Discuss Military Aid

AB230802 Lome Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese People, this morning received an FRG delegation at the Presidential Palace. At the end of the audience with the head of state, the head of the delegation, General (Dibiler), told the press that his delegation is in Togo to contribute toward the development of the good relations existing between the FRG and Togo. Gen (Dibiler) said his visit was aimed at assisting Togo in the military field. He stated that this visit will enable him to know in what ways this coperation can be improved, especially in the sector of military engineering.

UPPER VOLTA

Sankara, Dos Santos Meet, Pledge Support

AB222140 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos left Ouagadougou last night after a short visit to our country. The Angolan president, who arrived here from Conakary, had participated in the summit conference of Lusophone African countries in Bissau. Comrade Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] and head of state, held talks with his guest at the Presidential Palace. After these private talks, Presidents dos Santos and Thomas Sankara made the following statements. First, the Angolan president:

[Begin Dos Santos recording in Portuguese with simultaneous French translation] We did not have enough time to get the necessary information on the process of social transformation taking place in Upper Volta. We, however, noticed that, in fact, there is a great willingness on the part of the people to take their destiny into their own hands in building a new society. [Words indistinct] and shows that for many years the people did not get the opportunity to express themselves. They were oppressed politically, economically, and socially under previous regimes. The people were unable to fully benefit from the potential for peace and wealth in their country or to use their knowledge in its development and social progress. We are sure that the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] that have been established and all the other state instruments for the political leadership of the masses, the workers, and farmers will be used to transform and to continually change our states on the path of social progress.

We have really seen that there is a revolution here. We have come, therefore, to deliver the fraternal support of the Angolan revolution to the people of Upper Volta. We believe that the Upper Voltan and Angolan revolutions form part of the African revolution, and both aim at the welfare of the working masses and have the same objectives — that is, the complete economic, political, and social liberation of our respective peoples.

I think Comrade Thomas Sankara has made a great achievement — the conquest of political power, and the overthrow of an oppressive power of the former regime. But it is now that the great task, perhaps the most difficult task — the transformation of the institutions inherited from the previous governments — begins. This means the elimination of all injustices of all in the fields: the productive field, the social field, and so on.

To defend the revolution should be the first objective. We must always prevent opportunistic and reactionary elements from sabotaging the achievements of the revolution. We should watch out for their new tactics and subtle machinations to undermine revolutionary power. We must establish the mechanism to prevent external and reactionary forces from interfering and keeping the revolution from growing roots. There will be a need not only to have complete knowledge of revolutionary theory but also the experiences of other countries who are engaged in the same task of building a country that is free from capitalism. We know that revolutionary policies are anti-imperialist, anti-neocolonialist, and anti-apartheid. But the revolution may not be successful if the political leaders who bring it are not able to creatively apply the revolutionary principle to the concrete reality. That is another objective for the leaders of Upper Volta. They must carefully study the Upper Voltan reality and apply to this concrete reality the revolutionary principle that inspires all of us.

We would like to wish the government officials, especially President Sankara, a lot of courage and strength, because the enemy does not get discouraged.

Experience proves it: They will try to overthrow the young Upper Voltan revolution. It is only the strength of the organized masses that can defend what has been achieved. But the masses will not have the time if there is no vanguard organization to correctly and scientifically channel this strength of the popular masses, based on specific, well-defined objectives of the different stages of the struggle. We know that the comrades who are leading the revolution have the experience. They passed some tough tests and failure before they effectively took political power through the popular Upper Voltan revolution. That is why we understand that you are well aware of our preoccupations and of our desires. We would like to see the Upper Voltan revolution consolidated and capable of defending itself and of playing a militant and revolutionary role not only in this area but in liaison with all the other progressive forces. We are ready to build a truly independent, free, prosperous, and strong Africa.

On behalf of the MPLA-Labor Party and on my own behalf, I would like to express our active solidarity with the Upper Voltan revolution. We express our sincere gratitude for the invitation by President Sankara to spend a few moments here in Ouagadougou to observe the new stage that has been reach by the Upper Voltan people. We express our gratitude for the different gestures of solidarity toward our party and to the people of Angola at a time when they are still fighting for the defense of what they have achieved, mainly their independence, their freedom, and their territorial integrity.

We are aware of the danger facing our revolution. We are in a sensitive area of the African Continent, southern Africa. Down there, there is scrambling for big interests. Angola has a strategic position in southern Africa and its territory is potentially rich and relatively strong and advanced ideologically. It has also experienced a long struggle. Angola plays an important role in supporting national liberation movements. We support SWAPO, the legitimate representative of the Namibian people. We support the ANC, the legitimate representative of the South African people, and we are making great sacrifices so that the Namibian people can attain their self-determination and independence.

But despite the great sacrifices we are making, we know that other peoples are also making sacrifices, not only Angola. It is true that today we are independent. In the past, some African countries, when we were under the control of Portuguese colonialism, made available to us their territory so that we could organize our guerilla movement to transport armaments, food, and ammunition in order to further intensify the liberation struggle to free our oppressed people. I am thinking about the People's Republic of Congo, and the Republic of Zambia which on several occasions were a victims of armed attacks by the Portuguese colonial army. Despite the sacrifices, despite the threats, the people were supportive and still manifest their unfailing solidarity with the MPLA. Tanzania also played and important role. The port of Dar es Salaam played a key role in the intensification of our struggle because of its logistical support. Therefore, we consider it our duty to support the struggle of African peoples. Other than the African people, the progressive people of our continent who supported us materially, politically, and diplomatically, there are other peoples. The Cuban people sacrificed themselves and joined the Angolan people. Many of them have lost their lives and continue to lose their lives in order that the Angolan revolution can better defend itself from the attacks and treachery of its enemies. There is the socialist community which has always been the most reliable supporters of our struggle.

We believe that because of the revolutionary process that is going on in Upper Volta, our friendly relations of solidarity and cooperation should be strengthened and contacts between our two leaders should be increased. The same contacts should be extended to cadres, workers, and mass organization. We are sure that the necessary contacts will be strengthened during the visit of [Upper Voltan] comrades in Angola. They will have the opportunity to visit some party institutions and have contacts with our party activists, and see how our educational, political, and ideological systems work for party workers. We did not have the opportunity to see everything, but we would like to receive some comrades in our country for them to see what we have. We would also have time to send some comrades to see what is going on in Upper Volta because through these contacts and exchange of views, we will know each other better. Our two revolutions can supplement one another, and our common struggle will achieve its aim for the progress of Africa and that of our two peoples. Thank you very much. [end recording]

Comrade Thomas Sankara expressed to his illustrious guest the militant solidarity of the revolutionary Upper Voltan people with the Angolan people in their struggle against imperialism and racism in all its forms:

[Begin Sankara recording] Comrade President, on behalf of the National Council of the Revolution, the revolutionary government, the inhabitants of the city of Ouagadougou, and on behalf of the revolutionary people of Upper Volta, I would like to thank you very sincerely for agreeing to modify your flight schedule to stop over in Ouagadougou and thus have direct contacts with us and also give us the opportunity to tell you what we revolutionary Upper Voltan people think of your country, Angola.

Angola is geographically very far from Upper Volta, but our analysis shows that since 4 August, our country and yours have become very close, and better still without any borders. You have concretely and resolutely been waging war against the enemies of the African people — barbarous racism of South Africa, imperialism — after overcoming the Portuguese colonialists. You are also waging a ruthless war against all the subtle connivances in Africa and elsewhere that undermine the Angolan people's forward march toward their dignity, and toward the preservation and development of their revolutionary achievements. We are very much aware of this; that is why here in Upper Volta we follow with keen interest the legitimate war you are waging. We also know that this war you are waging is not for you Angolans alone, but for all of us Africans and for that matter all peace-loving men with a sense of justice, freedom, and dignity. You are fighting against all forms of domination, exploitation, and oppression, and this is our concern too.

Mr President, I would like you to transmit to all the militant comrades, the valiant fighters of the MPLA-Labor Party, not only our encouragement but our determination to be on their side day and night, today and tomorrow. They should know that their struggle is followed closely by the Upper Voltan people and that they are aware and wide awake, despite imperialist propaganda, despite the decadent Western press that tries to hide the reality from us and tries to project the image, through the pages of their newspapers, their radio, and television, of mercenaries, bandits, and renegades like Savimbi and others. Despite this propaganda, we are vigilant and know the real Angolan. We know the Angolan worthy of the name. We know the patriotic Angolan. They are those who are fighting within the MPLA, their great party. All the others are puppets, as we ourselves here know.

We also know that many statements, many resolutions, and great proposals have been made ostensibly aimed at bringing security to Angola. But in reality, your vigilance has enabled you to know that these proposals, this shilly-shallying is meant to entice you to collaborate with the barbarians in South Africa. In other words, a submission to imperialism. Fortunately, you were vigilant enough to reject all the various proposals, through the armed struggle you are waging every day, of all those who have a guilty conscience. You have been able to see through all these diversionary tactics. This should be a great lesson to us, Upper Voltans, to teach us that revolution demands vigilance.

I wish you a smooth return home. I hope we will have the opportunity to better know your country and your people, and tell them directly that we are on their side. I also hope that you and your entourage will have the opportunity to have a longer stay with us in order to better know Upper Volta. Thank you. [applause] [end recording]

Trials of Former Officials To Begin 3 Jan

AB231155 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers held its ordinary session on Wednesday, 21 December 1983, under the chairmanship of President Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR]. During the meeting, which lasted from 0900 to 1400, the Council examined several issues on the agenda and made major decisions. These include the decision to begin the trial of the dignitaries of the Third Republic and those of the Military Committee of Recovery for National Progress [CMRPN].

In order to satisfy the people's desire to have full clarifications on the management of their affairs, the Council decided that People's Courts will begin the trial of the dignitaries of the Third Republic and the CMRPN on 3 January 1984, 3 January being the anniversary of the mass uprising against Maurice Yameogo's neocolonial regime, which was marked by power monopoly, underhanded dealings, squandering, and hedonism, a regime which was rejected by the Upper Voltan masses but which the gang of Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo and Somet Yorgan Gabriel and others wanted to bring back to power through the reactionary and pro-imperialist coup d'etat of 17 May 1983.

Meanwhile, the following is the decree appointing judges to sit on the People's Revolutionary Courts:

The chairman of the CNR and head of state decrees: Article 1: Magistrates have been appointed judges of the People's Revolutionary Courts, whose headquarters are Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso respectively.

Denunciations Solicited

AB251120 Paris AFP in English 0943 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Ouagadougou, Dec 23 (AFP) — Top state leaders and top civil servants of two previous governments in Upper Volta will go on trial before People's Revolutionary Courts from January 3, the justice minister in the new left-wing regime Raymond Train Poda said.

Mr. Poda said last night that regarding the 1978-1980 regime of General Sangoule Lamizana, the former president himself, his ministers and those top civil servants who were concerned with them in the handling of public funds would be tried. Similarly for the regime of Colonel Saye Zerbo, in power from November 1980 to November 1982, ministers and top officials who had been concerned with the handling of public funds would go before the revolutionary courts. All other prosecutions would take their normal course under ordinary jurisdiction, Mr. Poda said.

Mr. Poda earlier called on the population to provide the people's tribunals with evidence. "That means that denunciations, all relevant elements which this and that person may possess, must be brought to the knowledge of the justice minister, who will send them on to the People's Revolutionary Courts," he said. The minister asked for all denuciations sent to him to be signed. He said that the trials will be held publicly without lawyers.

Neither death sentences nor sentences of hard labour for life were envisaged, Mr. Poda said. "What we are seeking is to effectively expropriate the persons who have, in one way or another, misappropriated state property. What is important is that these persons restore to the people their (the people's) property. There will be fines, but prison sentences, if there are any, are not a priority," he said.

The trials are scheduled to begin four months after the leftwing coup d'etat of August 4, led by Captain Thomas Sankara, which ousted the regime of Major Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo.

ANGOLA

Defense Ministry Issues Communiques on RSA Raids

25 Dec Communique

MB251704 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Communique issued by the Ministry of Defense on 25 December 1983]

[Text] Further to the information on the aggressions by the racist South African Army, the Ministry of Defense once again alerts the national and international public opinion that the enemy bellicose actions have been growing daily, achieving great proportions. In this regard, on 24 December 1983 the South African Air Force carried out bombing raids against the towns of Cahama, Cassing, Cuvelai, and Mulondo. The attacks were carried out from 0845 to 1315 in the morning and from 1800 to 0005 during the night.

From about 2300 on 24 December 1983 until 0500 on 25 December, the artillery of the South African Army conducted preparatory shelling against Cahama. In Cahama, Cassinga, Mulondo, Cuvelai, and Caiundo and in the other towns where the criminal action of the South African racists is being experienced, there are dozens of dead and hundreds of wounded among peaceful Angolan nationals. Such actions that have been carried out by the enemy categorically refutes the South African statement that its troops are only involved in limited operations in the Angolan territory against the SWAPO patriots.

Our galant combatants defend our positions firmly and (?repel) the enemy attacks with bravery and tenacity.

The struggle continues. Victory is certain.

Luanda, 25 December 1983, year of organizational strengthening.

[signed] Colonel Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale, minister of defense.

26 Dec Communique

MB270545 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Communique issued by Ministry of Defense on 26 December 1983]

[Text] As the acts of aggression by the racist South Africa are continuing against the Peoples's Republic of Angola, the Defense Ministry once again wishes to inform our people and the international public opinion of the following:

On 25 December 1983, the racist South African Air Force bombed the headquarters of Cahama municipality with a formation of 12 aircraft. During this action another two Mirage planes were shot down by our antiaircraft defenses.

Yesterday, 26 December 1983 [as heard], our forces violently clashed with the air and ground forces of the South African invaders in the areas of Cahama and Cuvelai.

The struggle continues! Victory is certain!

The office of the Ministry of Defense, 26 December 1983.

Signed: Colonel Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale, defense minister.

RSA Angola Incursion Scored at Press Conference

MB251028 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] The latest armed operations conducted by the South African Army in Angolan territory since 9 December were assessed during a press conference yesterday in Luanda. Equipment and military materiel captured by the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] in the Caiundo region and a Namibian soldier who was part of the South African army were presented during a press conference which was attended by representatives of the national and foreign media and the diplomatic corps accredited in Angola.

Petrus Kandjendje, the captured Namibian soldier, is 16 years old and was forced to join the South African Army under threat of death. Later he received military training at Base 202 in Namibian territory, and was subsequently sent to fight against SWAPO militants inside the People's Republic of Angola.

During the press conference, which was chaired by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Venancio de Moura, Major (Ivo) representative of the chief of the FAPLA General Staff, assessed the aggressive actions which have been conducted by the troops of the Pretoria racist regime over the past few days.

[Begin (Ivo) recording] As of 12 December, South African reconnaisance flights over the towns of Cahama, Mulondo, Cuvelai, and Caiundo have been increasing. These towns are situated more than 200 km within our territory. On 13 December the South Africans moved their units to the (Chikuto)-Otechinjau Lines near Xangongo region, and they performed engineering work in the Mupa region. After an intensive air force bombardment, on 14 December they attacked the town of Mulondo, using up to two tactical battalions supported by two 155-mm and 140-mm artillery groups. On 18 December they launched an offensive against the town of Cahama from the (Chikuto)-Otechinjau line. On the same day they sent a column from Namibian territory toward Caiundo, under the pretext of looking for SWAPO bases in Cuando Cubango Province. After intensive attacks by the air force, on 22 December they launched an offensive against Cuvelai from the Mupa line. On the same day, also after intensive air force attacks they captured the town of Cassinga, Huila Province, in a surprise attack by helicopter-borne forces.

The South African actions against these towns that I have just cited were promptly responded to by our units. Unable to break through the firm defense of our units with the massive attacks by its air force, the enemy destroyed (?residential areas) and schools, and indiscriminately killed women, children, and old people. In view of its failure to capture the positions of Cahama, Mulondo, and Cuvelai with a head-on attack, the enemy attempted to engage them from the rear. From the (Chikuto) line the enemy attempted to attack the town of Cahama from the rear, and from the Quiteve line the enemy attempted to attack the town of Mulondo from both flanks.

All of this activity has systematically been accompanied by intensive air force and artillery attacks. We would like to stress at this point that the air force attacks have usually been carried out in a formation of 4 to 18 airplanes. The enemy artillery fire lasts from 5 to 75 minutes.

A similar situation occurred in the town of Cuvelai, which the enemy attacked from the rear after failing to capture it in its head-on attack. With the aim of preventing any support from reaching Cuvelai, the enemy captured the town of Cassinga after intensive blows. In Caiundo, the enemy column was ambushed by one of our units as it was leaving the area. Our glorious FAPLA forces killed six enemy soldiers, as stated earlier by the comrade deputy minister, and captured all this weaponry that you see here and one prisoner. In view of this situation, the South African Air Force, acting in support of this enemy column belonging to the 202d Battalion, launched an intensive bombardment of the town of Caiundo and brought in troops. It also moved in its helicopters to collect the wounded and dead.

This South African action against our country is designed to divert the main attention of our armed forces from annihilating the UNITA puppet group which is barbarically massacring the local population in the central provinces to the north and preventing the harmonious economic and social development of our country. We therefore understand the reason for this new escalation of the South African aggression against our country.

There are no (?longer) SWAPO comrades in the regions that are being attacked. Only our people are there. Cassinga, which has been attacked and had its population massacred in previous years, is a mining region which had recently begun to explore for iron ore. The enemy attacked and destroyed it, and it is still destroying it at this moment and massacring the people there. As a matter of fact, there are no SWAPO comrades here as well. Even in Caiundo, there are no SWAPO comrades.

The South Africans are carrying out at this moment this escalation of aggression against our country. The combat is continuing today. At 0700 today, the South African Air Force in a formation of up to 28 airplanes again intensively bombed the towns of Cuvelai, Mulondo, and Cahama. So far we have suffered several casualties, with several dead and wounded. The South Africa enemy is under control as of now, since the combat is still taking place.

As stated by the comrade deputy minister, a 155-mm artillery battery and six AME-90 and AME-70 armored vehicles have been put out of action in the Cahama region. Also in Cahama, the antiaircraft units destroyed two enemy Mirage fighter airplanes. In Mulondo, an Impala airplane has been hit and a Mirage airplane has also been hit in Cuvelai, as well as in Caiundo.

In conclusion, we can say that the final South African objective consists of the expansion of the area it occupies in our country, contrary to what it alleged in its letter to his excellency the UN secretary general regarding the withdrawal of its forces. What it intends to achieve is the expansion of the strip of our national territory which it has been occupying in Cunene Province. [end recording]

Congolese Presidential Visit Planned for 27 Dec

MB240716 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Denis Sassou-Nguesso, chairman of the Congolese Workers Party and president of the People's Republic of the Congo, will make an official and working visit to the People's Republic of Angola on 27 and 28 December. The visit is in response to an invitation made by Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, Angolan head of state. This report reached our newsroom yesterday through a communique issued by the press office of the Angolan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

MPLA Sends Greetings Message to Cuban Workers

MB241100 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] The MPLA-Labor Party Political Bureau has sent a greetings message to the Cuban internationalists in the People's Republic of Angola who (?are struggling) in several parts of the country, thus contributing to the development of this fatherland. After noting party and government cooperation and the relations between the Angolan and Cuban peoples, which have been further strengthened in the light of the proletarian internationalism, the Political Bureau stresses in its message to the Cubans the exemplary attitude of solidarity which guides the Cubans who are so cooperative, as well as the courage and dignity that has always been displayed in their activities. The party also appreciates all the work that has been done by the Cuban internationalists, and expresses its total recognition to the compromise stand with the Angolan revolutionary process.

The message also says that only close solidarity among the world's revolutionaries can dismantle and isolate imperialism, whose aggressive and inhuman nature can be seen in the increase in the arms race and the focus of tension which are designed to provoke a direct confrontation among the peace loving countries.

LESOTHO

Official Disputes RSA Reply on Alleged Plot

MB241254 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] The minister of information and broadcasting, Mr D.T. Sixishe, today rejected the statement made by the South African foreign and information minister, Mr Pik Botha, in which he said that the allegations of a mercenary plot against Lesotho were unfounded. Mr Sixishe said that Mr Botha wanted to minimize the seriousness of the attempted mercenary invasion on Lesotho, which could have been carried out from South African soil.

The minister said the crux of the matter was that during a meeting between the security representatives of the two countries yesterday, Lesotho elaborated on information that had already been supplied to South Africa by Lesotho's security officials. Having been supplied with this information, the South African security officials have promised to further investigations and report back to the Lesotho authorities. Mr Sixishe said it was surprising in the light of this development to hear Mr Botha say that the information was unfounded only a few hours after it had been supplied, and before a reply was sent to Lesotho.

MOZAMBIQUE

USSR Envoy on Rumors of Deteriorating Relations

AB261730 Paris AFP in English 1602 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Maputo, Dec 26 (AFP) — The Soviet ambassador to Mozambique, Yuriy Sepelev, has described recent reports that relations between Mozambique and the Soviet Union were deteriorating as "malicious rumors".

In an interview with the official Mozambican news agency AIM, Mr Sepelev said relations were execellent in the political, economic and military fields, adding that the Soviet Union was "ready to do anything so that relations deepen and grow". The Marxist government in Maputo signed a friendship treaty with Moscow in 1977 and has received large quantities of military hardware including MIG fighter planes, T-54 and T-55 tanks and AK automatic rifles.

In return, Mozambique supplies fish and minerals to the Soviet Union. Reports of deteriorating relations followed President Samora Machel's tour of Western Europe in October, combined with Mozambican approaches to both the European Community and the International Monetary Fund.

Earlier this year, the United States named an ambassador to Maputo after a two-year hiatus.

Mr Machel has expressed a belief that better relations with the West, especially the United States, may help bring pressure to bear on South Africa to stop supporting rebels of the Mozambique Resistance Movement (MNR).

Ambassador Sepelev said it was important to understand that Mozambique was independent and "not anyone's puppet", and that the Soviet Union fully understood the need to broaden ties in all directions.

Specifically denying reports by South African-based journalist Peter Younghusband that the Soviet Union had cut off food aid and left Mozambique without oil, Mr Sepelev announced that two Soviet ships were in Maputo port — one carrying a gift of 7,000 tons of rice, the other with a cargo of oil.

A second oil tanker was expected shortly, Mr Sepelev said.

Mozambique has been experiencing serious shortages of motor and aviation fuel. The state airline LAM suspended most domestic flights for a few days at the height of the shortages.

The Soviet ambassador also recalled that the Soviet Union and Mozambique had signed a 300-million dollar cooperation agreement earlier this year, and said his country had recently presented Mozambique with 13 million dollars worth of clothing and domestic utensils.

Twenty-four Soviet mining technicians were kidnapped by the MNR rebels in August in the northern province of Zambezia. The Soviet Embassy said last week that eight had been freed, two had died in captivity and 14 were still held.

Recapture of Maringue Reported by Government

MB250530 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] More than a 1,000 peasants from the town of Maringue returned to their residential area on 20 december. The majority of the inhabitants of Maringue, headquarters of Maringue district, Sofala Province, had been evacuated to Sena as a result of an attack by the armed bandits in September. In order to defend the peasants and other inhabitants, the local Popular Armed Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique [FPLM] garrison, which at the time had a limited number of personnel, evacuated the peasants to Sena, where it also received reinforcements for a counteroffensive.

Once there was no longer any danger of risking lives of civilians in confrontations with the bandits, FPLM forces expelled the enemy from Maringue in the middle of September. As a column of our forces was approaching the area the bandits dynamited all the town's houses and its infrastructure, namely four shops, one warehouse, one hospital, one school and the water tank. These facts have been disclosed to a team of journalists who have recently returned to Maputo after visiting several areas of Sofala Province.

Maringue used to be a major cotton-producing area for all of Sofala Province, an activity which ceased due to the activities of the armed bandits, in addition to wood cutting and prospecting. Maringue is a strategically important access area to the rich zones of Manica, Tete, and Zambezia.

Search-and-destroy operations against scattered groups hiding in bush are now in progress. Meanwhile, the reconstruction of the district headquarters had begun, using locally available materials.

NAMIBIA

Five Soldiers Killed in Anti-SWAPO Operations

MB231412 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1336 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Windhoek, Dec 23, SAPA — The SWA Territory Force today announced that five of its members had died in action in follow-up operations against SWAPO insurgents in the past few days. A sixth soldier was thought to have been taken captive. The officer commanding the SWATF, Major-General George Meiring, said in a statement in Windhoek that the families of the five black SWATF members had been informed of their deaths.

Military authorities were making arrangements for the funerals, but the names of the men would not be released for security reasons in the interests of the families. A sixth member of the SWATF, Mr Petrus Kandjendje, is missing, and it is suspected that he has been captured, General Meiring said.

Gen Viljoen Assessment

MB231903 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1822 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 23, SAPA — The five SWA Territory Force members killed during follow-up operations against SWAPO insurgents during the past few days were killed by Angolan soldiers, the chief of the South African Defence Force, General Constand Viljoen, confirmed tonight.

In a statement in Pretoria, General Viljoen said Angolan soldiers were "increasingly interfering" with SADF and SWATF follow-up operations against SWAPO terrorists. "The SADF and the SWATF is left with no choice other than to defend themselves when FAPLA (the military wing of the ruling Angolan MPLA) interferes in this way," the statement said.

It added that the deaths of five SWATF soldiers at the hands of FAPLA and the "subsequent exploitation of these deaths for propaganda purposes" was regarded in a "very serious light."

Two Police Reportedly Killed by SWAPO 'Terrorists'

MB231733 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] It has been confirmed in Windhoek, South-West Africa/Namibia, that two special constables of the South-West African police have been murdered in Ovambo by SWAPO terrorists. A spokesman for the South-West Africa Territory Force says the two policemen were off duty at the time and were unarmed when they were attacked. The security force has launched a follow-up operation.

SOUTH AFRICA

Gen Viljoen Discusses Goal of Angola Operation

MB231303 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] The chief of the Defense Force, General Constand Viljoen, has confirmed that the Security Forces [words indistinct] are involved in follow-up operations against SWAPO terrorists in the south of Angola. In a statement issued in Pretoria, Gen Viljoen said that as in previous years, SWAPO was attempting to use the rainy season to infiltrate South-West Africa along transit and logistical routes and to activate the Kavango in particular. Last week a similar warning was issued in the Security Council of the United Nations by the South African ambassador to the United Nations, Mr Kurt von Schirnding.

Gen Viljoen said the SADF and the South-West Africa Territory Force would continue to execute their duty and ensure the safety of its force and of the people of South-West Africa. Gen Viljoen said that the current action of the Security Forces in southern Angola was a limited operation.

Additional Remarks

MB270740 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Excerpt] General Viljoen said that SWAPO was using what he called a tortoise tactic for the first time, since Operation Protea in 1980. When it was quiet SWAPO forces would move away from FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] forces, but as soon as they encountered South African forces they retreated and relied on the protection of FAPLA forces which were supported by Cubans and Russians. General Viljoen cited as an example, an encounter between 200 SWAPO terrorists and security forces near (Kahama). He said that had retreated immediately to the town, where they had been given protection by FAPLA forces.

He said that what had happened during such operations was that pamphlets were distributed, which assured FAPLA that no action would be taken against them; that SWAPO was being pursued, and that FAPLA should not interfere. General Viljoen emphasized that South Africa did not want to fight FAPLA or Cuban forces. However, if they continue to employ their new tactic, which enabled SWAPO to abuse the situation, South Africa would have no alternative but to become involved. General Viljoen said that this is what had happened last week when a security force platoon had been attacked by FAPLA troops near (Kayundu). He denied that South Africa had attacked the town. He said that the ambush had been 12 km from the town. He denied that South African aircraft had been shot down yesterday, but confirmed that the latest Soviet SAM-8 missiles had been fired at South African aircraft.

The security force had begun reconnaissance operation in southern Angola during the first week of this month, and General Viljoen said that South African forces would remain there until they had fulfilled their task of stopping the large wave of SWAPO terrorists and keeping them on the other side of the border.

General Viljoen, who visited several bases during his trip, said that the morale of spirit of South African troops was high. It was clear to him that they were prepared for combat, prepared for the task that lay ahead, and that their preparation had been faultless. General Viljoen was accompanied on his visit by the chaplain general, General Chris Naude. General Viljoen said that there would be no attacks on civilian targets. He said that reports put out to the rest of the world by Angola were aimed at covering up FAPLA'S involvement. Allegations of successes achieved by FAPLA were often plain propaganda. He said that when it came to casualties, South Africa would not hide such information, and all South African casualties would be made known.

Pik Botha: Lesotho Coup Plot Charge 'Inadequate'

MB231917 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1904 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 23, SAPA — Heads of South African and Lesotho police and security organisations met at the border between the two countries today, the Department of Foreign Affairs announced in Pretoria tonight. The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said in a statement South African security authorities had investigated allegations by Lesotho that an international group of mercenaries planning an attack on the Kingdom "with the aim of overthrowing the government" had arrived in South Africa "on a scheduled flight."

Mr Botha said the Lesotho National Security Forces' information about the alleged coup activities were "completely inadequate and of such a nature that it could not assist South African authorities in the investigation." The statement said South African police proceeded with its own investigations, which indicated the allegations of the Lesotho Government were "largely based on information furnished by a certain individual," who was not named. "No substantiation for these allegations could however be found," it said.

The statement said the South African head of the CID, Lieutenant-General Chris Zietsman, and Major-General F.M.A. Steenkamp, the head of the security branch of the South African Police, met the heads of the Lesotho Paramilitary Force, the Lesotho National Security Service, and the Lesotho Police at the bridge near Maseru that separates the two countries. The statement said the results of the investigation of the coup allegations were conveyed to the Lesotho delegation.

"The Lesotho delegation revealed that since August they had disclosed unconfirmed information that a group of between 200 and 300 mercenaries recruited in Italy, Belgium, France, Portugal, the United Kingdom and Canada had arrived on a scheduled flight in South Africa with a view to launching an attack on Lesotho.

"South Africa has no, repeat no, knowledge of the entrance of this group," the minister said. Mr Botha said he regretted that the Government of Lesotho had informed certain foreign governments and the media without first seeking to verify the information. "It would be appreciated if the Lesotho authorities would in future contact the South African security authorities in matters of a security nature with a view to facilitating further investigation," the minister added.

Two Canadian Nurses Held Captive in Angola Arrive

MB231927 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1910 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 23, SAPA — Two Canadian nurses held captive by the Angolan rebel movement, UNITA, for five weeks were released today and arrived at the Waterboom Airfield near Pretoria late this afternoon, the Canadian consul, Mr Maurice Hebert, confirmed tonight.

Mr Hebert said the nurses, Ms Marion Wilson and Ms Nora Draper, both in their 30's, were tired, but in "good spirits" after their five week ordeal of walking through the Angolan bush. He said it is hoped the women will leave for Canada tomorrow. Mr Hebert said the whereabouts of two other nurses captured at the same time as Ms Wilson and Ms Draper on November 13 was unknown.

Negotiations for the Canadian nurses' release were conducted by the International Red Cross, and it was only this afternoon that their release was confirmed, Mr Herbert said. "Until then we didn't know much more than was in the papers," he said.

Radio Reports Swazi Police Deny ANC Detentions

MB250740 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0900 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] The police in Swaziland say they know nothing about a series of raids on members of the African National Congress last Saturday. The heads of the Swaziland police and the security police were reacting to an inquiry from the Antiapartheid Movement in London, over allegations that more than 30 members of the ANC have been taken to two camps, and that their relatives feared that they might be deported to South Africa. The Antiapartheid Movement said it had sent a message about the allegations from within the ranks of the ANC to the Swaziland prime minister, Prince Dlamini.

SWAZILAND

Four Charged With Treason Rearrested, Detained

MB240730 Mbabane THE SWAZI NEWS in English 24 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Four of the 11 treason accused who were released on bail have been rearrested and detained. The four alleged coup leaders are Chief Dambuza Lukhele, Mrs Bonisile Bellow, Mrs Beauty Hlophe and Princess Mcane.

The others have paid their bail money and were released, pending the treason trial. A source in the Matsapa maximum security prison said prison authorities have been instructed to continue holding the four in prison cells while the Supreme Council of State (Liqoqo) considers whether or not to have them served with 60-day detention orders.

Commission of Prisons [as published] Mr Petros Mdluli declined to comment on the matter. The 11 were released on 2,000 emalangeni bail by High Court Judge Ben Dunn, who said there was no justification to keep them in custody while awaiting trial. They are accused of plotting to overthrow the government.

Police said in court that 11 might try to use a mercenary army to overthrow the government if they were released on bail. The court rejected the submission.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe 'Calm' in Face of U.S. Aid Cut Decision

AB231338 Paris AFP in English 1318 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Harare, Dec 23 (AFP) — Zimbabwe Prime Minister Robert Mugabe reacted calmly today to the decision by Washington to almost halve its aid to his country, apparently for political reasons.

"We'd rather be without a cent than compromise our sovereignty," he told a press conference here in the first official reaction to the U.S. move.

Mr Mugabe also criticised the army of neighbouring Botswana, whose troops recently killed a Zimbabwean soldier who had crossed the border, for its lack of cooperation in the hunt for armed dissidents opposed to his government.

The United States resolved to cut its aid this year from 75 million to 40 million dollars in reaction to Zimbabwe's refusal to condemn the Soviet downing of a South Korean airliner and its criticism of the American invasion of Grenada.

Mr Mugabe acknowledged that Washington was Zimbabawe's benefactor, providing more aid even than Britain, amounting to more than 230 million dollars in three years.

He added, "We are friends with the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union, China, India, in fact with everybody except South Africa. But we are not for sale to the highest bidder ... Our friends should never constitute themselves as our masters."

Prime Minister Comments on Botswana Relations

MB240800 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, says Zimbabwe is doing its best to harmonize economic, military, and political relations with Botswana. He said at a news conference in Harare, yesterday, relations between the two countries are excellent at the political level, but there is a little problem on the military side. Describing as quite unnecessary the killing of a Zimbabwe national army soldier in Botswana early this week, Comrade Mugabe noted that the Botswana patrol involved had admitted that the Zimbabwean soldiers they opened fire on had not fired a single bullet. He said the two countries are trying to avoid a recurrence of the sad incident.

The prime minister said there is an improvement in the security situation in Matabeleland, but there are a few areas where dissidents continue to harass peasants and commercial farmers. Comrade Mugabe said the government has substantial information about apartheid-ruled South Africa's involvement in the training of dissidents from Dukwe camp in Botswana, and their infiltration back into Zimbabwe. He said the information would soon be revealed.

ZAMBIA

Soviet Amity Group Cites Nuclear Threat

MB240620 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] A delegation of the Soviet Friendship Organization currently visiting Zambia has said in Lusaka that the threat of a nuclear war between the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, is real and not concocted danger.

Responding to questions from local journalists at the Soviet Embassy today, the delegation leader — organization Secretary General (Evgeniy Yessakov) — said the threat of nuclear war remains real despite its unimaginable consequences. A delegate on the three-man panel of experts, which answered questions, said that superpowers could obliterate life on earth by unleashing only 10 percent of their current nuclear arsenals.

The Soviet Friendship Organization, which aims at fostering closer ties between the Soviet people and other nationals throughout the world, has more than 20 offices in action in Africa.

The delegation leaves Zambia on Monday after visits to Botswana and Zimbabwe.